

Friday March 26 1977

59,962

a twelve pence

THE TIMES

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After the fall, by
Jane Austen
and Another, page 6

Government no longer likely to impose basic curriculum

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The Communist Party has accused of politically motivated intervention in the election of a general secretary of the electricians' union. A union inquiry has concluded that Communists directed the campaign of a candidate who tried unsuccessfully last March to unseat Mr Frank Chapple. The allegations are contained in a committee's confidential report to the executive council of the inquiry's confidential report to the executive council of the

Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union. Mr Bert Ramelson, the party's industrial organiser, last night dismissed the charges as "a tissue of fables".

The report says that it is "not unreasonable" to draw a parallel between the Communists' support for Mr Harold Best, a member of the EETPU executive, and backing given to other left-approved candidates for high office in the past, particularly in the late

1950s, when in the view of the High Court the union was "controlled by Communists and pliant sympathizers". The committee recounts that Mr Best was elected to the executive in 1973 with nominations from only six branches and on a minority vote in his region, Yorkshire. But in March 1976, when he stood for the office of general secretary, he got 97 branch nominations from all parts of the country and a national vote of 24,278.

"We can only assume that the sudden increase in his vote was by reason of the decision of the Communist Party to support his candidature", the report states.

"A microcosm of the whole operation in our view can be found in the situation that prevailed on the quarter night of the London central branch when nominations for the office of general secretary were taken and Brother Best was in attendance. There was a letter read

continued on page 2, col 2

Government apparently has decided against posing a core curriculum on all schools. Instead, Miss Jackson, a junior education minister, indicated yesterday that it is likely ask local authorities to prepare the framework such a curriculum and to leave teachers to work out the details.

Teachers expected to work out details

Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent

The Government is not likely to all to impose guidelines on a core curriculum to be taught in schools as a result of great debate on education. Instead, it appeared yesterday, it is likely to ask local education authorities to prepare a framework of a core curriculum and to leave the details to teachers.

At the seventh of the planned eight regional conferences on education, Miss Jackson, Undersecretary of State for Education and Science, said in London: "The detail of how should be carried out, as well as all the implications and problems and working out at local level, should be done by teachers who are going to have to implement it at local level."

She denied a suggestion by Mr Max Morris, of the National Union of Teachers, that her department had completed the first draft of its consultative Green Paper to follow the great share before the regional conferences began. His view is likely held among educationists.

Mr Samuel Fisher, chairman of the National Union of Teachers' Education Committee, said: "Heaven save us the content of the syllabus to be interpreted by civil servants in the DES."

Much of value could come from consulting teachers, but if they were not consulted a common core curriculum of subjects in subject areas to be taught in schools would not be possible.

"Lenient marking", page 2

Liberals may abstain in Tory defence move

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

The first test of the Liberals' arrangement to preserve the Labour Government in office on what Mr Steel, the Liberal leader, regards as his terms will come in the vote on the Defence Estimates in the Commons on Monday. But according to party officials last night, when the critical Conservative amendment is put to the vote the Liberals will abstain.

The Government motion merely asks the House to take note of the Estimates.

The Conservative amendment asks the House to express its regret "that the Government's defence policy has resulted in our Forces being seriously deprived of modern equipment necessary to maintain, with the other members of the North Atlantic alliance, sufficient conventional capability to deter acts of aggression, to sustain an effective fighting force in the event of actual hostilities, and thereby to strengthen our influence in formulating the policies of the alliance".



EEC leaders in Rome included President Giscard d'Estaing, left, Mr Tindemans, the Belgian Prime Minister, Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, Mr den Uyl, the Dutch Prime Minister, and Mr Callaghan.

French change policy on summit role for EEC

From Michael Hornsby
Rome, March 25

Mr Roy Jenkins, the President of the European Commission, appeared virtually assured here tonight of an invitation to the economic summit in London in May. The breakthrough came after a change of policy by President Giscard d'Estaing of France, who earlier had opposed the Commission's taking part.

Speaking in a television interview after the first day of a meeting of EEC heads of state and government, the French President said: "If there are questions on which the Community has decided beforehand to have a common position, such as the North-South dialogue of rich and poor nations, then it could be possible for the Commission to be represented."

The only question remaining here tonight was whether the smaller EEC countries, led by the Dutch and the Belgians,

Commission's participation should take place was being discussed by the EEC leaders over a working dinner at the Palazzo Barberini, where their meeting is being held. A formula proposed by Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, would allow Mr Jenkins to be called on to intervene at appropriate moments.

There clearly remained a lot of work to be done on defining precisely which items on the Downing Street summit's agenda qualify as "Community matters" justifying a contribution from Mr Jenkins. Legally, anything directly implying a European interest would be considered a Community interest to be represented.

Historically, that view had always been challenged by the French, who have usually sought to check any attempt by the Commission to play an independent political role. President Giscard d'Estaing also felt that the

who had been pressing for Mr Jenkins's full participation in the summit, would accept the proposed compromise. There was every sign, however, that they would be content with having won the substance of their case.

All along, the contention in Brussels and The Hague, and somewhat less vociferously in Dublin and Copenhagen, had been that the four big EEC states should not attend restricted international conferences from which their smaller partners were excluded without some arrangement being made for a Community interest to be represented.

Historically, that view had always been challenged by the French, who have usually sought to check any attempt by the Commission to play an independent political role. President Giscard d'Estaing also felt that the

intimacy appropriate to the periodic economic summits would be destroyed if the number of participants became too large.

The French President was careful to emphasize tonight that the European Commission's presence in London would not in any sense imply its attendance "as an additional state".

Earlier, Mr Callaghan and his

colleagues had assembled on the Capitol to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome.

President Giovanni Leone of Italy told the gathering that one of the main achievements of the treaty had been "to give the peoples of Western Europe

the certainty that the idea of 'enam' nations" was once and for all past history".

Cut-price butter plan, page 3

£1.46m loss by Express newspapers

By Richard Allen
Financial Staff

Beaverbrook, publishers of the *Daily Express*, *Sunday Express* and *Evening Standard*, lost £1.46m in the first half of its current year, mainly because of its decision to delay cover price increases for as long as possible.

The loss for the period ended December 31 compared with a deficit of £20,000 in the first half of 1975/76 when Beaverbrook went on to make profits of £1.4m for the whole year.

Despite newsprint price increases of 20 per cent in May and August last year, Beaverbrook decided to hold prices of its newspapers in an effort to protect circulation figures.

As a result, the group forecast a significant loss for the first six months but the actual deficit is much greater than most outside, stock market expectations.

Cover prices and some advertising rates have since been increased as a result of a further newsprint increase in January which is expected to cost the group an extra £4m this year.

The directors say that results from the *Daily Express* since its January relaunch in tabloid format are very pleasing and the group is confident that it made a wise decision.

The paper is said by the board to be showing a strong circulation and improved readership profile while taking record advertising bookings.

Meanwhile, Beaverbrook has

now concluded the sale of its Tollgate House development in Bristol for £6m and this will produce a profit of around £1.75m.

The £1.46m interim loss was

struck after a trading loss of £914,000 on turnover 10 per cent higher at £45.7m and depreciation charges of £640,000.

The group passed the interim dividend for the fourth year in succession.

The results disappointed the

stock market where the non-voting "A" shares dipped 5p

at one point before recovering to close 3p down at 35p. The ordinary shares eased 5p to 145p.

Beaverbrook shares have been

fairly volatile in recent weeks

on talk of takeover possibilities.

Enhanced this year by the news

that Sir James Goldsmith's Cavendish group had bought 35 per

cent of the "A" capital from News International. This holding represents just under 30 per

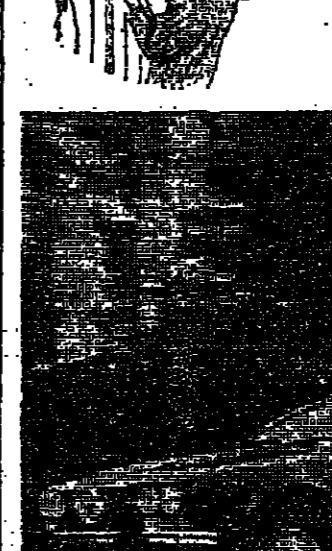
cent of the total capital.

There has also been speculation

that Beaverbrook and Asso-

ciated Newspapers, publishers of the *Daily Mail* and *Evening News* in London, might con-

sider some form of merger.



Afghan refugees, with

sharp, crisp tang of action as

well as the smooth undertones of elegant charm - that's what

today's man needs. And that's

what you discover in *Monsieur Worth*, the one that

gets it altogether in flasks and

glasses, with complementary

deodorant and soap.

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HOME NEWS

Liberal plan calls for Scottish assembly to get most of royalties from North Sea oil

From Martin Huckerby

Most North Sea oil royalties and the proceeds from personal income tax in Scotland would go to the Scottish Assembly under the Liberal Party's devolution plan, which was presented to the Prime Minister earlier this week.

Details of the 28-page memorandum were published yesterday by the Liberals, and Mr Russell Johnston, the leader of the Scottish Liberal Party, said in Glasgow that he thought the proposals would be acceptable.

Nevertheless, the group of widespread economic powers to a Scottish Assembly would certainly meet serious opposition from Labour backbenchers.

There is little likelihood that the Government, even with the votes of the 13 Liberal MPs, could hope to push through a new devolution Bill proposing such powers.

However, the document will be seen by many as a basis for negotiations between the party and the Government as part of the new agreement. The memorandum calls for separate devolution Bills for Scotland and Wales, and then concentrates on Scotland.

It proposes a general confirmation of legislative powers on the Scottish Assembly, with certain limitations on the exercise of those powers, and a constitutional court that would rule on any disputed assembly legislation.

A Scottish "Treasury" would receive the proceeds of personal income tax paid by residents in Scotland. The assembly would have the power to vary the basic rate of tax on personal incomes.

The Treasury would have a yield from the royalties on oil brought ashore in Scotland. The

rate would be 12% per cent, and would not be varied.

The document suggests that the oil of the enlarged United Kingdom, royalties between 1980 and 1985, at an average of £550m a year, Scotland could receive £400m a year.

Proceeds from income tax are estimated at £1,000m, which would give the assembly £1,400m a year overall, similar to the £1,300m block grant proposed by the Government, but enabling the assembly to have independence with regard to revenue.

The Liberals accept that their scheme is likely to produce administrative difficulties and expense initially, but say: "This is a price which has to be paid for the political advantages of fiscal independence and responsibility."

A large part of the document, drawn up by an unnamed group of academics, is devoted to a "Scottish Bill of Rights". Mr Johnston, MP for Inverness, said the party's proposals were practical and possible, and would not do such violence to the Government's own proposals that they would be impossible to contemplate.

He seemed optimistic about the prospects for success and said that rebel Labour MPs in the North-east and North-west of England, who had an intrinsic suspicion of the objectives of devolution, would support such a revised devolution Bill.

But it is difficult to believe that those MPs will not view the plan with even more distaste than they viewed the Government's original Bill.

Mr Political Correspondent writes: There is a willingness by the Government to use the proposals as a basis for progress on devolution.

In consultation with the

Protestant call to Mr Powell to quit seat

From Christopher Walker

Belfast

A determined attempt to erode Mr. Enoch Powell's position in Northern Ireland's politics will be made next week by hardline "loyalist" resentful at his abstention during Wednesday's "no confidence" division at Westminster.

The three Unionist MPs who refused to vote against the Government learnt yesterday that they could face the threat of expulsion from the United Ulster Unionist Coalition.

The move was made by the Rev William Beattie, a close political associate of the Rev Ian Paisley and deputy leader of his Democratic Unionist Party. He announced that Mr Powell, Mr. John Carson and Mr. Harold McCusker will be asked to appear before the coalition's steering committee on Tuesday to explain their

innovation, having immense significance for opposition parties, if such a move was approved on a government Bill. It would take away the only real power the backbenchers have to prevent the executive putting through contentious measures.

If the Conservatives opposed such a "carry over" motion in the Commons, it is almost certain that Conservative peers would refuse to consent to a similar motion in the Lords. On the evidence of opinions expressed yesterday they would be joined by several Labour peers.

The best estimate now being made is that it will require consultations until the summer to hammer out an agreed measure on devolution between the Government, the Liberals and the nationalists, and that legislation will have to wait until next session for further progress to be made.

'Let Mr Freud talk his way out of this without deviation or repetition'

Lib-Lab alliance raises Tory hopes in Ely

From Robert Parker

Ely

The Conservative Party in Ely, the constituency which was taken from them by Mr Clement Freud for the Liberals in the 1973 by-election, are jubilant with confidence. They are certain that the effects of the Liberal deal with the Labour government this week will guarantee the seat being returned to the "rightful" owners.

"If there had been a general election I would have voted Liberal again, but not now. I shall vote Conservative next time."

Although Mrs Anne Sharp, the Liberal agent, emphatically states that the Lib-Lab deal has little noticeable effect on local electors, a view also shared by the Labour Party, Conservatives believe the deal has had a big effect. Of the 20 or so people I spoke to in March and Ely yesterday it does appear that many Liberal voters are rather unhappy.

Mr Andrew Verney, the agent for Dr Tom Stuttaford, the Conservative candidate, says that

something approaching anger. Mr Nigel Frary, the manager of a butcher's shop, said: "I think the whole deal is a complete sell-out. I have never voted Labour in my life and I never shall. How do you think I feel now that the Liberals have kept Labour in power?"

"If there had been a general election I would have voted Liberal again, but not now. I shall vote Conservative next time."

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Mr Andrew Verney, the agent for Dr Tom Stuttaford, the Conservative candidate, says that

the Isle of Ely is basically "anti-socialist". Although Labour did well in the 1966 election, they got only 21 per cent of the poll in October, 1974, and 16.8 per cent in February, 1974. Dr Stuttaford says the area is "an egalitarian Conservative seat".

Mr Stanley Smithie, chairman of the Wisbech Labour group, said: "I do not feel that the Liberals have suffered greatly by the deal. Like us, I suppose they feel some disappointment. But I am certainly not aware of any great reaction against the Liberals in the constituency. If there were a general election now I think it would be a very close fight between the Liberals and the Conservatives."

In the election in October, 1974, the third that Mr Freud had fought in four years, the Liberals took 41.7 per cent of the poll. Dr Stuttaford took

36.5 per cent, giving the Liberals a majority of 2,635.

Mrs Sharp, the Liberal agent, said: "Mr Freud has tremendous appeal and popularity in the Isle. I have had only three or four anonymous calls from people who said they would not vote Liberal again. I have had lots from people who wanted to make sure about postal votes or to say that David Steel had done the right thing."

The seat has never been a Labour hopeful. Its history before the Second World War was one of Liberal dominance and since the war it has been one of Conservative control.

One can only really tell whether the Lib-Lab deal will be successful for the voters by changing their minds. But with the anti-Labour record of the constituency, it is suspected that the Liberals may lose the seat, especially in view of the present small majority.

Bomb in van kills butcher

From a Staff Reporter

Belfast

A Roman Catholic butcher from the Irish Republic was killed yesterday and three of his colleagues were injured when a boobytrap bomb exploded in their van on the northern outskirts of Belfast. He was Mr Larry Potter, aged 25, of Clones, Co Monaghan.

Mr Potter and five other butchers had just got into their van to drive to work at a Belfast meat plant when a 2lb bomb exploded attached to the driver's shaft.

The incident occurred at the end of a week which has seen a resurgence of violence by extreme "loyalists". Another victim of the continuing Provisional IRA campaign against locally recruited security forces also died yesterday. He was Mr David Graham, aged 32, a part-time corporal in the Ulster Defence Regiment, who was ambushed two weeks ago.

Still seriously ill in hospital is Karen Maxwell, aged 13, who was shot on Thursday night.

Surgeons disclosed that her life had been saved by a St Christopher medallion which she wore around her neck. It deflected a bullet fired through the door of a house where she was baby-sitting. The attack is known to have been the work of "loyalist" gunmen.

Rail executives cleared of fraud

From David Cobbett

Glasgow Sheriff Court

of 5144 in labour and material.

The Sheriff said to show that Mr Cobbett, formerly British Rail's Scottish general manager, and Mr Bell, formerly the region's architect, had acted dishonestly by using four senior staff during working hours to plan a central heating system for Mr Cobbett's Glasgow home.

Mr Cobbett is now general manager, Eastern Region, based at York, where Mr Bell also

now works.

A direct comparison could

Exam papers 'leniently marked'

From Peter Godfrey

Oxford

Britain's education standards, although consistent, are not high enough to meet the needs of modern society, the annual conference of the Headmasters' Association was told yesterday.

Professor Jack Wrigley, Professor of Education at Reading University, said that an apparent improvement in public examination results was counteracted by more lenient marking.

"As more candidates enter for both CSE and GCE, the calibre is likely to drop slightly, and it is not surprising that such a change is not fully recognized by the examiners," he said.

He referred to an unpublished survey by the Schools Council which, he said, indicated that the calibre of examination candidates fell slightly between 1968 and 1973, although those at CSE level achieved comparable grades and GCE candidates slightly higher ones in 1973.

A direct comparison could

not be strictly accurate, he added, but the research gave no evidence of an improvement in academic achievement.

Standards are not failing but are not good enough for the demands of modern society.

He now the development of a yardstick to monitor educational levels and the preservation of the public examinations system as vital to the maintenance of standards. He hoped that standards might be enhanced by the present greater stability of the teaching force.

Mr Stuart MacLure, editor of *The Times Educational Supplement*, told the conference that economic factors linked education more closely with employment, but that industry had yet to challenge traditional educational priorities.

"It is a sobering thought that the demands it makes on the young people who enter employment is that for one in three of them the job can be competently carried out with four weeks' training or less."

The National Union of Teachers said: "There is no evidence to suggest that headmasters are less well qualified now."

Man killed wife in self-defence, counsel claims

From Our Correspondent

St Albans

A husband who buried his wife in a garden grave and kept the secret for almost five years told police he killed her in self-defence, a jury at St Albans Crown Court was told yesterday. Ronald Chambers, a factory worker, has pleaded not guilty to murder.

Mr Denis Cowley, QC, for the defence, said: "He stabbed her in self-defence. She attacked him with a carving knife.

"He fought her off and she fell on to the bed still holding a knife which pierced her chest. His only thought was to save himself from being killed. But he buried her and kept the gruesome secret because he was afraid police would not believe him."

The body of Mrs June Chambers, aged 40, was found in the garden of their former home at West Hill Road, Luton.

Mr Chambers, now of Eaves Street, Blackpool, told the jury his wife used to get drunk every night. "She would attack me violently if I tried to take the bottles away."

The hearing continues on Monday.

Building in grounds of listed houses 'cannot be stopped'

From Our Correspondent

St Albans

A planning application to the Greater London Council has recently proved that the council is powerless to prevent building in the gardens of listed historic houses. The case came before the board only because the developers wished to make a gateway in the eighteenth-century surrounding garden wall.

The "listed" wall could not be breached without consent, although the houses within the garden simply needed planning permission, which Caversham Borough Council wished to grant.

As it stands, the law allows the large gardens of such houses to be subdivided for housing development, with only borough council planning permission required.

Earlier this week, the council's historic buildings board considered a proposal to build a gateway for the gateway because rejection could have meant a substantial compensation claim.

Settlement for dismissed dancer

A settlement was reached

yesterday between Equity, the actors' union, and Mr Michael White, the impresario, over the dismissal at short notice of Miss Elizabeth Seal from the West End musical, *A Chorus Line*. It is believed to include a four-figure payment to Miss Seal.

She is 42 and was dismissed from the show by Mr Michael Bennett, the American director.

Royal garden party postponed

The Queen has agreed that

a garden party at the Metropolitan Police College, Hendon, to mark her silver jubilee, and which she will attend, should be put back a day because local elections are taking place on the date planned.

The function, to which about 1,500 police officers and their wives have been invited, will take place on May 6.

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTs Warm

Winds are blowing as follows

Clouds are half obscured

Fog is dense

Rain is falling

Thunderstorms are developing

Snow is falling

Hail is falling

Frosts are occurring

Ice is forming

Wind is strong

Sea is rough

Clouds are half obscured

Fog is dense

Rain is falling

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Sea is rough

Clouds are half obscured

HOME NEWS.

Virus deaths rise to 16 at old people's home

From Our Correspondent
awake upon Tyne
The death toll at Earsdon
rung old people's home, in
one and Wear, rose to 16
yesterday, but council officials
expressed the hope that effects
of the virus responsible may
be waning. The latest
victim, a man aged 91, was one
of six residents of the home in
Jonkseaton said on Thursday
he was ill with the same symptoms
as the nine women and
men who have died since
March 11.

Yesterday, however, the con-
dition of one person was said
to have improved. Mr Sidney
Hilkinson, director of social
services for North Tyneside
council, said: "The four people
remain sufficiently ill to give
us concern but it looks as
if this may now be coming to an
end."

Seven of the original 14
members of staff at the home
are showing signs of the virus
symptoms, aching legs, general
aches and pains, and dizziness
and headaches, but Mr Wilkinson
said that their condition was
not as bad as for concern.

Dr Bryan Shaw, area medical
officer for the health, said they
hoped to receive information
about the virus from the
national public health laboratories
on Tuesday.

Referring to the 12 deaths in
February at another council
home, The Willows, at North
Shields, Dr Shaw added: "It
now appears that we have two
different situations. At The
Willows, while tests are not yet
complete, there are strong
implications that there is no
common source connected with
the deaths."

Our Medical Correspondent
writes: In contrast to bacterial
diseases such as typhoid or
diphtheria, there is no simple,
rapid laboratory test for con-
firmation of the diagnosis in
most virus illnesses. Culture of
viruses takes much longer than
growing bacteria in the labora-
tory and tests for antibodies
are also less predictable.

While there may be good
clinical grounds for believing
that the cause of the outbreak
is infection with an influenza
or similar respiratory virus,
a proof may not be available for
some time.

Science report, page 14

Minister urged to
ban concrete
hardening agent

By a Staff Reporter

The Government is under
pressure to prohibit the use of
calcium chloride in the building
industry after the discovery of
a rapid laboratory test for con-
firmation of the diagnosis in
most virus illnesses. Culture of
viruses takes much longer than
growing bacteria in the labora-
tory and tests for antibodies
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some time.

Science report, page 14



An Iron-Age meal being served beside the unfinished communal round house.

Living as in
300 BC, for
television

From Kenneth Gossling

It was quiet on the "secret" Iron Age site in Dorset yesterday, until 50 press and television people arrived to question the six couples and three children who are going to have to survive for 12 months in some-thing as near the original settle-
ment of 300 BC as human ingenuity and research have been able to devise.

The women were preparing
for the pot three chickens
freshly slaughtered from their
henhouse on stilts. The children
were playing in the mud—and
up to the cameras—and the

men were surveying the great
round house where all the
couples will eventually live.
Tents are still being used.

The project was devised by a
BBC West television producer,
Mr John Percival. Volunteers
who are being paid £20 a week
were sought a year ago, and
20 of them "auditioned" on a
site in Hampshire last summer.

All had to learn the new
skills that will be needed to
keep them alive without out-
side help for the next year.

Mr Percival admitted yester-
day that not everything had
gone according to schedule.

The round house will not be
ready for three more weeks.

"We had to pace out the mea-
surements," he said, "rather
than use a twentieth-century
tape measure, and consequently
we have a house that will not
keep the water out."

Animals known to have lived

Universities 'have failed to
provide for industry'

By Annabel Ferriman of The
Times Higher Education
Supplement

Universities will have to pro-
duce more technologically
educated generalists if the per-
formance of British industry is
to improve, according to a docu-
ment launched yesterday by a
group of Labour Party indus-
trialists.

"Britain's higher educational
institutions, unlike those in
France and Germany, have
failed to provide industry with
ambitious and able generalists
with qualifications which are
predominantly scientific and
technical. Our generalists par
excellence are the Oxford
classics and greats men," it
says.

The document was produced
by a working party of the 1972
Industry Group, a 100-strong
group of Labour Party members
in industry and commerce.

Members of the working party,
which was headed by Sir Sigmund
Sternberg, were advised by
academics, including Professor
Bruce Archer of the Royal
College of Art, Lord
Crowther-Hunt, fellow of Exeter
College, Dr Edward
Edwards, vice-chancellor of
Bradford University, and Lord
Houghton of Sowerby.

It recommends government-
sponsored bursaries for
families of students in
engineering courses so that they
are more attuned to producing
the sort of graduate needed by
industry.

Lord Brown, former chair-
man of the Glacier Metal Com-
pany and one of the authors
of the report, introducing the
document yesterday, said that
the University Grants Com-
mittee would have to persuade
universities to change the
emphasis of their courses away
from non-vocational work and
set up new courses in industrial
technology.

Industry would also have to
revise its pay structure for
technologists and engineers so
that it was more competitive
with the public sector, take a
regular number of graduates
yearly and be prepared to pro-
mote technologists and produc-
tion managers to the board
room.

To ensure enough well
qualified technicians, industry
should also increase the amount
of day release. Business
schools were criticized for not
sending enough graduates into
industry and for having too
many academic courses.

*Education and Industry: a mani-
festo for action (The 1972 Industry
Group, 14 Queen's Gate, London).*

Boy found
hanged
'was bullied'

A pupil found hanged at
Millfield School, Somerset, had
been bullied, Mr J. Fenton
Rutter, the East Somerset
council, was told yesterday.

Mehran Sarkeesh, aged 14, an
Iranian, was found hanging
from a belt attached to two
beams in a changing room, it
was stated.

Mr Rutter decided there was
insufficient evidence to say that
the boy, in his first term at the
school, whose "borderers" fees
are nearly £3,000 a year, took
his own life and recorded an
open verdict.

Mr Rutter said: "We have
heard of the history of bulling
and that history will no
doubt be investigated by the
school." Crime had been eliminated
and death could have been
caused in one of two ways.

"Either he was playing about
with the belt, or he may have
been trying to draw attention
to himself without expecting to
be stopped or, it is possible
he may have taken his life
deliberately." He could not
decide whether it was an
accident or deliberate.

Earlier, Police-constable

Howard Horstall said the boy
had been bullied. Mr Rutter
said: "According to one witness
the deceased was afraid
someone was going to fight him
that night."

Police-constable Horstall
said: "One of the students did
mention that he had heard the
mention that he had been threatened."

Mr Kenneth Barries, a house-
master, said the boy, of Min-
dam, Avon, Tewkesbury, was
quiet, withdrawn and had
difficulty with the language. He
had previously spoken to a boy
of 15, said to have been the
bully, about "bullying and
being nasty". The coroner
asked that the boy's name
should not be published.

Mr Roger Stokes, represent-
ing the dead boy's relatives,
said it was the understanding
among Millfield pupils that the
bullying of the boy was "far
more than ordinary bullying
and that there was something in
the future to take effective action
to deal with unemployment.

The unions argued: "Clearly,
the sort of policies which have
been followed up till now have
not been satisfactory to any
member state or for the Com-
munity as a whole." Workers
in Europe were increasingly
sceptical about the ability or
willingness of Community in-
stitutions to take effective action
to deal with unemployment.

The unions said they had
repeatedly demonstrated their
willingness to promote stability by
collective bargaining policy.

"On the other hand, as has
already become evident from the
social unrest in some of the
Community states, it will not
be easy for trade unions in the
future to pursue this stability-
conscious wage policy in view

WEST EUROPE

Cut-price butter plan will barely
cover increase British must
expect to pay under EEC rules

From David Cross
Brussels, March 25

The European Community is
considering offering some of its
surplus butter for sale in
member countries like Britain
at special cut-rate prices as part
of this year's farm price review.

The idea is expected to be
discussed by ministers of agriculture
of the Nine during a two
or three-day session which
opened here today. They are
trying to meet their customary
April 1 deadline for fixing agricultural
prices for the coming

level under the country's terms
of accession to the Community,
this year's farm price review
and possible changes in the
value of the so-called green
pound in which British agricultural
prices are calculated.

Any such scheme would be
warmly welcomed by the British
Government. After the recent
fall in the price of butter to the
Common Market, Mr John Silkin,
minister of Agriculture, suggested
that EEC surpluses should be
made available to consumers
within the Community.

The British are also seeking a
price freeze for dairy products
during this year's review, but
this wish is less likely to be
granted. In response to strong
pressure, in particular from the
Belgians, Mr Gundelach, the
European Commissioner for
Agriculture, is understood to be
considering improving his
original offer of a 3 per cent

rise under the Community's terms
of accession. This would be
an immediate increase of 3 per
cent and a further 2 per cent
from July 1 and September 1. How-
ever, part of the initial rise
would be offset by getting dairy
farmers to pay a 2 per cent tax
on their products from April 1.

To show their displeasure at
the Commission's original
modest offer, about 40 Belgian
farmers demonstrated outside today's
meeting. Mr Albert Laveau, the
Belgian Minister of Agriculture,
assured them of his support
personally.

Mr Gundelach is also report-
ed to be considering a modest
improvement in other sections
of this year's farm price review
and possible changes in the
value of the so-called green
pound in which British agricultural
prices are calculated.

Most countries are objecting
to the Commission's original
proposals on the grounds either
that they would cut the
revenue of their farmers (Bel-
gium, Ireland and the Nether-
lands) or because they would
give a further boost to food
prices in the shops (principally
the British).

Today's deliberations opened
with an inconclusive discussion
of fishing rights for EEC fisheries
off the coast of Ireland. The British
are objecting to new proposals
tabled by the Commission which would
drastically reduce their fleet's activi-
ties off the north-west and south
coasts of the Republic.

However, the Community is
under considerable pressure to
reach a settlement quickly as
the Irish are threatening to intro-
duce unilateral controls on
the size of vessels allowed to
operate in their waters. Dublin
has twice postponed a decision
on the measures, which were
originally due to take effect at
the beginning of the month, and
is fast running out of patience
with its Community partners.

Surprise at
Areilza
decision to
resign

From Our Own Correspondent
Madrid, March 25

Señor José María Areilza, the
former Spanish Foreign Minister
and vice-president of the
Popular Party, has resigned
from the party and says he will
not contest the general election,
which is to be held next year.

The announcement took political
circles by surprise, particularly
as the Popular Party forms
part of the Democratic Centre,
a coalition of liberal, social
democratic and some Christian
democratic forces that is con-
sidered to have good electoral
chances.

The resignation was apparently
brought on by growing
conflicts within the Popular
Party and strained relations
between Señor Suárez, the Prime
Minister, and Señor Areilza. But
Señor Areilza made no mention
of this in his letter of resigna-
tion, saying he was not acting
against anyone or anything.

Señor Areilza and Señor Pi,
a former Information Minister,
saw the Prime Minister on
Wednesday. The resignation
of Señor Areilza is expected to
speed up Señor Suárez's own
decision on whether to fight the
election and, if so, under what
banner.

The exact political colouring
of the Prime Minister is still
a mystery; he has been careful
not to align himself with any
particular group. His years
spent with the National Move-
ment, the only legal political
organization under General
Franco, clearly put him on the
right, but since he took office
in July his political line has
been directed towards the
centre.

Now that Señor Areilza has
resigned, Señor Suárez may de-
cide to focus on the centre
forces, particularly as the other
so-called centre alliance, the
neo-Fascist Popular Alliance,

is in the last Government, is
gaining ground all the time.

The resignation is the second
this month by an important and
respected politician. Earlier,
Señor José María Gil Robles,
the veteran Christian Demo-
cratic leader, resigned to make
possible the formation of a big
Christian Democratic party.
This new party, the Christi-
an Democratic Federation, will be
constituted formally on Sunday
and will stand on its own in the
election.

Dr Soares
shuffles
his Cabinet

Lisbon, March 25.—Dr Soares,
Portuguese Prime Minister,
today reshuffled his minor
Socialist Government, naming
three new ministers and dis-
missing one. Señor Francisco
Marcelo Cunha is replaced as
Minister of Labour by his
deputy, Señor Maldonado
Gonçalves.

Señor Alfredo Nobre da
Costa takes over the Industry
and Technology portfolio from
Dr António Joaquim Gomes, who
remains as Minister of Economic
Coordination and Planning.
Professor Mota Pinto is
named Minister of Commerce
and Tourism, portfolio pre-
viously held by Dr António
Barreto, who retains his other
job as Minister of Agriculture
and Fisheries.

The poet Manuel Alzeite, who
was the Secretary of State
(Deputy Minister) for Informa-
tion, has become Adviser on
Political Affairs to the Prime
Minister, a new post with
deputy ministerial status. Dr
José Maria Roque Lino takes
over the information job.

Meanwhile, it was announced
that Lieutenant-Colonel José
Alberto Loureiro dos Santos,
who played a leading role in
the overthrow of General Vasco
Gonçalves' left-wing government
in 1975, has been made
Deputy Chief of Staff, a post
vacant since the dismissal of
former General Spinoza, believed
to precipitate the April 1974
revolution.—Reuter and Agence
France-Presse.

Editor on birth
control charge

Madrid, March 25.—Señor
Juan Luis Cebrian, editor of
the Socialist Government, has
been charged with publishing
pro-abortion information. The
newspaper has been running a
series on birth control that was
published earlier in a colour
supplement of *The Sunday* Times.

Señor Cebrian faces a maxi-
mum sentence of six months' im-
prisonment and a fine of up to
£1,600. Feminists have been
demanding free distribution of
contraceptives.

group, *Politiken*, and *Ekspress*
Blad. Work was also stopped
at a number of printing houses.

The labour court imposed
fines amounting to £17,500 on
two printing unions for their
role in the conflict. These fines
were considerably less than the
£100,000 or more which most
union officials had expected.

The £50 fine on each of the Berlingske
printers is also considered very lenient. The union
had estimated it, from experience of past cases, to be
nearly £400.

The relative smallness of the
fines, equivalent to less than a
single day's pay for the printers,
has been interpreted by the
unions as a sign that the labour
court understands their position
and sympathizes with it to some
extent.

Public enemy No 1' gets
20-year jail sentence

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, March 25

Jean-Charles Willaquet, aged
32, described by the police as
"public enemy No 1", who
committed 21 armed robberies
and holdups in three years, was
sentenced by the Paris assize
court today to 20 years' im-
prisonment.

OVERSEAS

Mr Ram agrees to join Indian Cabinet after personal appeal from Prime Minister

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, Saturday morning
After day-long negotiations, Mr Morarji Desai, the new Indian Prime Minister, announced late last night that Mr Jagdish Ram, his rival for the office of Prime Minister, was joining the Cabinet.

Mr Ram, the 68-year-old leader of the breakaway Congress for Democracy, had been resisting joining the administration as protest over the way Mr Desai was selected yesterday to lead the Janata (People's) Party. The two parties fought the general election in harness but Mr Ram's group is to keep its separate identity even though it will have at least two members in the Cabinet.

The 19-member Council of Ministers is to be sworn in by the acting President, Mr B. D. Jatti, today.

Mr Desai won Mr Ram over in a 20-minute meeting at Mr Ram's home.

The allocation of portfolios has not been announced, so it is not yet known whether Mr Ram and Mr Charan Singh, the number two figure in the Janata Party, who is also in the Cabinet, are both to be deputy premiers.

The inclusion of Mr Ram, who is leader of India's 80 million "Untouchables", was regarded as vital for Mr Desai if the new Government was to keep its populist image.

But the manoeuvring cannot hide the fact that groups within the victorious alliance have been jockeying for key posts, which they have claimed on the basis of their supposed contribution to getting out of the anti-Gandhi vote.

Mr Desai's supporters have been bitter over developments with Janata, though they concede a leadership election within the alliance might have resulted in only a tied vote between Mr Ram and Mr Desai. But they claim that Mr Singh's MPs have already been recruited from a Congress for Democracy decision to stand down in Uttar Pradesh during the general election in order to prevent Mr Gandhi's Congress Party scraping home.

Later, the Lower House passed a supplementary budget for the financial year commencing on April 1.

A joint session of the Lower House and the Rajya Sabha (Upper House) presided over by acting President Mr B. D. Jatti, is to be held on Monday. At present the Upper House is still controlled by the Congress Party.

During the day, crowds demonstrated on the lawns of Mr Ram's house, shouting slogans against the Janata Party and the manner in which Mr Desai was selected as its leader. They demanded a new party election.

Mr Jayapaksh Narayan, the ailing pacifist leader, was flown to a Bombay hospital today for kidney treatment. This is the second time in two months that the 74-year-old politician has been admitted to hospital.

Mr Narayan played a key role in installing Mr Desai as Prime Minister yesterday and also helped bring about the merger of four non-Communist opposition parties into the Janata Party to fight the elections.—Reuter and Agence France-Presse.

Leading article, page 13

Mr Bhutto rearrests opponents

From Our Correspondent
Rawalpindi, March 25

Mr Mudiana Mufti Mahmud and several other leaders of the Pakistan National Alliance of nine opposition parties were arrested today on the eve of the opening meeting of Pakistan's new national assembly in Islamabad tomorrow.

The alliance had announced it would observe the inaugural day of the assembly as a "black day" and called for a general strike throughout the country. Thirty-six members of the alliance elected on March 7 have already announced that they would not go into the assembly as it was the result of rigged elections.

Among those arrested in various cities are the heads of seven of the nine opposition parties forming the alliance, including Air Marshal Asghar Khan, Professor Ghafour Ahmad, general-secretary of the alliance, has also been arrested and Bezmum Abdul Wali Khan,

Kurdish rebels seize three more hostages

By Edward Morris

Two French civilians and an Algerian have been captured by Kurdish rebels in Iraq and are being held hostage, together with four Poles who were captured last December.

This information, given to *The Times* by Kurdish sources in London, has been confirmed by the French Government, which is trying to obtain their release.

M. Dominique Souvy and M. Philippe Dreyer were working for a French private company in Iraq. They were captured on February 23, together with the Algerian.

According to the Kurdish sources they were seized "on the Saladin-Din to Rawanduz axis". This would mean on or close to the main road from Baghdad to Haj Omran, on the Iranian frontier, but at least 30 miles inside Iraq.

The sources say that the hostages are now being held

in the area of Sulaymaniyah, further south, and that their lives could well be in danger as this area is the scene of a big Iraqi offensive against the Kurdish guerrillas, which began on March 17.

The offensive is said to involve six battalions of Iraqi infantry as well as armed helicopters and artillery. The Kurds claim that in the first four days there were 500 Iraqi casualties against 26 Kurdish, but about 30 Kurdish villages were burnt. They also claim to have captured two Iraqi officers and a number of NCOs and other ranks.

In return for release of the hostages, the Kurds are demanding the return of fellow-Kurds deported to southern Iraq, especially the wives, mothers and sisters of Kurdish guerrilla fighters who are said to be held in special internment camps. They also demand the release of all political prisoners.

Roman Polanski indicted for assault on girl

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, March 25

Roman Polanski, the film director, has been indicted in Los Angeles on charges of rape, sodomy and other sex offences against a girl of 13. The indictment was returned by a grand jury yesterday after Mr Polanski had been arrested on March 11. He is now free on bail of \$2,500 (£1,450).

There are six counts against him: rape by use of drugs, lewd or lascivious acts against

the child under 14, unlawful sexual intercourse, perversion, sodomy, and furnishing a drug to a minor.

According to the police, Mr Polanski picked up the girl telling her mother that he was taking her to a photography session, and took her to the home of Mr Jack Nicholson, the film actor, who was away at the time. The girl's mother reported it to the police after hearing her daughter describe it on the telephone to a friend.

The Queen seemed taken aback when a clean cushion was put on the oyster seeder's chair and an attempt was made to usher her into it. "I don't want to do that. No, you do it, I will wash", she said laughingly.

The Queen began the day with a visit to Popondetta on Papua's northern coast. She was then flown east to Alor. She ends her visit to Papua New Guinea tomorrow.—Reuter.

In fact, there are few ties between the island and the

Soviet Union, fewer even than mainland Tanzania. Since the revolution which brought the late Shaikh Aheid Karume to power 13 years ago, the Chinese have been the most active of the various foreign countries which maintain a presence here.

They have built a cigarette factory, a sugar mill, and an impressive sports stadium, and their embassy is in the Vladimir Lenin Hospital.

The East Germans have built a huge complex of workers' flats, known locally as East Berlin, and now the Indians are becoming active in a number of projects.

Those who mistrust Soviet intentions in Africa might interpret his visit to Zanzibar as symbolizing the beginning of a new colonial era for Africa. Not unnaturally, a perspiring President Podgorny insisted that his journey was designed only to cement ties between two progressive peoples who share similar ideologies.

In fact, there are few ties between the island and the

Fall of the Gang of Four not regarded as offering an opportunity to mend fences

From William Safire
Peking

A Chinese Foreign Ministry official has rejected Western accusations that Peking's relations with Moscow might improve as a result of the Chinese campaign against Chiang Ching, the widow of Mao Tse-tung, and three other emphatically anti-Soviet Communist Party figures.

"I don't see any prospect of improvement of relations between the two countries", the official said in an interview.

He objected to suggestions in the West that Miss Chiang and the other members of the so-called "gang of four" might be more anti-Soviet than the present Chinese leadership. He described the anti-Soviet stand of the four as a sham and said their fall would have no effect on the future of Soviet-Chinese relations.

Asked what the Chinese reaction was to President Carter's criticism of the denial of human rights in the Soviet Union and elsewhere, the official replied: "A few intellectuals deprived of free speech is only a minor question.

In the Soviet Union the workers, the peasants and the intellectuals are all being oppressed".

The official asserted that China is the country where human rights are best observed. He said that more than 95 per cent of the people enjoyed human rights, adding that the rest "if they are receptive to reeducation" can also enjoy them.

He went on: "In the United States only 5 per cent of the population enjoys human rights, and 95 per cent don't have an exchange of views".

What no progress? Because the Soviet Union has gone back on what has already been agreed, the official replied.

If the United States proposed that President Carter should visit China "we will give it consideration".

These statements came during a discussion of Chinese foreign policy that lasted three hours and 15 minutes. The diplomat agreed to the use of quotations, but asked that he be identified only as a "responsible official in the Foreign Ministry". The interview was held in a large meeting room in the Foreign Ministry in the presence of three middle-level officials and through a Chinese interpreter.

Recording was not permitted.

but their equipment has improved", he said.

"We now view these troops as primarily directed against the United States, Japan and China."

Why the United States? "The main enemy of the Soviet Union is the United States", the official replied.

Why were the two sides so anxious about holding negotiations, the official asked himself.

"Because each side thinks the other is the arch enemy. The Soviet Union is afraid of the United States and the United States is afraid of the Soviet Union. Neither side can sleep well, so they have to hold negotiations".

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Although he would not estimate the size of the Soviet force now on the border—American defence officials put the total at 500,000 men—the official said that Soviet armed forces in the East as a whole total a million men. "There has been no increase since 1972.

should not hamper the development of normal state relations between the two countries on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence. China should not be held responsible for the worsening of relations between China and the Soviet Union. It is not up to China to improve relations."

Is China worried about an attack by the Soviet Union? Until the Soviet Union defeats the United States, he replied.

What is the Soviet Union's main opponent in the rivalry for world hegemony? "The emphasis lies in Europe, not Asia", he said.

On the issue of American relations with China, the questioner suggested that a Chinese guarantee of non-interference in regard to Taiwan would probably lead to United States recognition.

Asked whether China's state-to-state relations with the Soviet Union could be improved, even though Communist Party hostility continued, the official said:

"Though we have disagreements with the Soviet Union on matters of principle, this

Pained greeting awaits Mr Vance in Moscow

From Our Correspondent
Moscow, March 25

Mr Vance, the American Secretary of State, will be greeted rather modestly in Moscow tomorrow. The Soviet press has hardly accorded the impending visit the advance publicity its political importance merits.

This is doubtless designed to emphasize continuing Soviet annoyance over President Carter's gestures on behalf of dissidents. Further umbrage has resulted from his recommendation to Congress on expanding broadcasts by Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty.

These accusations of planning to use the Helsinki agreement on free exchange of information as a pretext for increasing the propaganda volume of these stations against the Soviet Union and other socialist states. It points out that the Helsinki agreement binds its signatories to refrain from all forms of interference in each other's internal affairs.

Although the Soviet leadership seems determined to make plain to Mr Vance its displeasure over what it claims are attempts to meddle in internal matters, this does not mean it has downgraded the actual importance of the visit. On the contrary, it wishes to prevent the discussion from becoming bogged down in the human rights controversy and digressing from the main issues.

This could happen if Mr Vance tries, as requested by leaders of the American Jewish community, to take up the issue of Soviet Jews or to press the subject of reuniting families.

He is taking with him a representative list of some 300 cases of separation.

The Soviet side is determined to concentrate on limitation of strategic arms, reduction of forces, curbs on arms sales, and a cross-current here of expectations and foreboding.

terms for reconvening the Geneva peace conference on the Middle East and demilitarization of the Indian Ocean. Talks with the Soviet leaders, the party chief, will take place during Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Fred Emery writes from Washington: Mr Vance leaves here with more plaudits for President Carter's outspokenness in the cause of human rights. Fifty-seven senators, forty signed a letter of endorsement saying that there could be no true world understanding unless former human rights abuses were implemented.

Vice-President Brezhnev also delivered a firm rebuke in a New York speech. Mr Brezhnev, while being informed that the Soviet Union's abuses were not being singled out, was also being told there would be no let up.

Mr Vance's party fully expects a stern lecture on arrival in Moscow about this "interference" in Soviet affairs. But the Carter gamble is that the Russians are prepared to put up with it in the interest of equal superpower relations on such "gut" issues of averting a further nuclear arms race.

However, the Soviet leadership is now being asked to swallow Mr Carter's latest insistence that "interference in a government is not a verbal thing". The internationally accepted definition, according to Mr Carter at his press conference yesterday, is trying to overthrow a government and intruding "in a military way". The United States was not trying that, Mr Carter said.

It is against this background, and the otherwise extraordinary circumspection on foreign affairs by Mr Carter in his first two months in office, that the Vance-Moscow rendezvous has aroused such a cross current here of expectations and foreboding.

Chancery Division

Law Report March 25 1977

Pensioners' review claim fails

Metger and Others v Department of Health and Social Security

Before Sir Robert Megarry, Vice-Chancellor

Pensioners failed in a test case to establish that the Secretary of State for Social Security had adopted a wrong formula for determining increases in pensions to take account of inflation.

His Lordship ruled on a preliminary issue in proceedings by Mr Leslie Metger, of Cleve Road, Kilburn, and two others against the Department of Health and Social Security that he carrying out his review of pensions under section 125(1) of the Social Security Act, 1975, of the sums specified in Schedule 4 to the Act, as amended, the Secretary of State's duty was to do so in relation to such changes in the general level of earnings or prices as had occurred since the coming into effect of the Social Security Benefits Up-Rating Order, 1976, and not in relation to such changes as had occurred in the year before the review.

His Lordship ruled that the review should be carried out by virtue of section 123(2) which was subject to an up-rating order made by the Secretary of State under section 124.

Section 125 was different; it imposed a duty rather than a power and laid down obligations to provide a minimum sum.

His Lordship said that the review should be carried out by virtue of section 123(2) as the up-rating order made by the Secretary of State under section 124 had regard for the purpose of inflation.

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His Lordship said

Records of the month

O rare Callas, and rarer Massenet



Maria Callas as Lucia

whether or not we are listening to a live performance. The set ends with a round of handclapping and cheering, but there is silence at the close of the previous three acts. Do I hear the order coming from the Amans Committee? "No canned applause?"

On the credit side, CBS have kept the cost down—a penny under £9 is cheap for a three-record set—and they have given us a chance to hear a work which is generally dismissed. James Harding, Massenet's British biographer, can scarcely wait to get onto his next opera, *Esclarmonde*, and allocates *Le Cid* a mere two pages. The trouble, of course, is the libretto cackled by three pairs of hands a long, long way after Cornille. CBS, though, could have provided a little more background material: the libretto is clearly laid out but the essays are skimpy and miss leading. The English and French libretti are run side by side, but the Frenchmen get a different story to the other nations.

After this carpings let it be said that Plácido Domingo gives a superb performance in the title role. It will be claimed that he is not an ideal Massenet tenor, but a couple of years ago the detractors were announcing that he could not, and should not, sing *Otello* and *Walther von Stolzing*. But Domingo can tackle virtually anything at the moment. He has previously recorded Rodriguez's aria "O souverain, o juge" (for RCA) and here his sounds equally fresh. Grace Bumbry's Chimène is less successful and there are too many squally notes, but Paul Plishka, a bass I have admired at the Met, is a rich and weighty Don Diegue. The standard of the French is generally poor and suggests over-hasty preparation. Eve

Queller draws plenty of fire from the orchestra, not least in the ballet music on which Kenneth Macmillan rather permissively drew for his Covent Garden *Manon*, the subject Massenet treated immediately before *Le Cid*.

Johann Strauss II's posthumously produced opera *Wiener Blut* has also had its detractors, primarily because he did not produce an original score for it. Feeling tired, or merely believing that he had done enough work for one lifetime, Strauss passed his commission to the Hungarian musician Adolf Müller to perfect an opera from what he had composed already. Müller did his job admirably and some had the sense to commission the text from two young librettists, Viktor Leont and Leo Stein, who were later to work

with Lehár. The book has a strong foretaste of Schnitzler, with its Vienna where aristocrats dally with dancers and laundrymaids before returning to their own class.

Nicolaï Gedda is right back on form as Graf Zedlau, a forerunner of Lehár's Count Dandolo, who finds high life and lower life equally enjoyable. Anneliese Rothenberger's tone as his censorious wife is a little pinched at times and she is the out-sung by Renate Holm as the ballet dancer Fréza. There are delicious performances by a number of Vienna-born singers led by Heinz Zednik. Willy Boskovsky opts for a Hungarian orchestra, but when was Vienna ever short of Hungarian musicians? The sound is excellent and this set is highly recommended, apart from a textbook, sloppily produced and printed and often bearing

John Higgins

and prised and often bearing

notes to what is coming from the loudspeakers.

Finally two more welcome reissues. EMI have brought out the first *Callas Lucia* on tape and disc with first-class sound on both for a recording coming up to its quarter century. Donizetti has been heavily cut, but the compensations they are, come in the freshness of voice from Cobbi, di Stefano and Callas herself. There is plenty of competition in the catalogue and there will be more in the autumn when a new *Lucia* arrives from Philips, but this is a set I would not be without. And the same applies to the new issue on tape of Bohm's EMI *Coste*, which has the most aristocratic trio of *Coste* ladies on offer: Schwarzkopf, Ludwig and Steffek.

At the time of the Rachmaninov centenary EMI produced a box devoted to the composer's orchestral works in Soviet Russian performances recorded by Melodiya. The contents were not quite comprehensive but the gaps are gradually filled from the same source. One recently appears this month, the *Caprice Bohémien*, written in 1894, and being given a long, full, grandly played concert by Yevgeni Svetlanov and the LSO.

third symphony and fourth piano concerto), and there are curious cross-currents to the early Sibelius in nearby Finland.

The uncapricious *Caprice* is used on record as curtain-raiser to Balakirev's first symphony. Deveyness of that work are likely to over Beecham's famous performance on disc. Svetlanov's reading is more brilliant and incisive, less romantic, a quite different approach that brings its own rewards: *Melodiya* sound these days is clean, vivid and sumptuous.

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The form is that of Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsodies, a slow section followed by a fast one, but the slow, grief-stricken music predominates and the quicker *Frisz* is repetitive and almost punctilious. One bolero-like *Debussy* work seemed tedious, but in the event the performance is music-like and greatly enjoyable, with an elegantly loping pulse, constant pleasure in the orchestral colours, and

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Another great American orchestra, that of Chicago, turns with its regular conductor Sir Georg Solti to French music. The prospect of Ravel's *Boléro* as filler for two favourite Debussy works seemed tedious, but in the event the performance is music-like and greatly enjoyable, with an elegantly loping pulse, constant pleasure in the orchestral colours, and

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Good Food Guide

Eating in dialect

A reminder that united Italy is only just over 100 years old came from a recent survey by Padua University, which showed that only 25 per cent of Italians actually speak pure Italian among themselves (the rest prefer their native dialects). The same marked regionalism characterizes Italian food. There is certainly at least as much difference between Sicilian and Turinese cooking as there is between Spanish and Portuguese.

The difficulty facing the visitor who is set on enjoying this gastronomic diversity is the unwelcome ubiquity of another "province" — an all-Italian repertoire of escapee milanese, spaghetti bolognese, pizza napoletana and steak pizziola, on lines familiar to anyone who eats Italian food in London. Restaurateurs in Italy seem to regard these dishes as the tourist's delight. Unfortunately they are often.

But with a little persistence and luck, the genuine regional article can be found.

In Venice, where food and hotels are dearer than elsewhere in Italy for comparable quality, the problem is less in finding the local specialities than in steering clear of tourist traps. Generally speaking, these can be detected by their proudly displayed menus in English, German, French and, yes, Italian, complete with the respective national flags. But people who complain that Venice is infested by tourists have clearly never bothered to wander down the side alleys leading off the well-trodden thoroughfares that link the Piazza San Marco, the Rialto, the Accademia and the station. There are quiet, tree-studded squares almost entirely free of pedestrian traffic; and trattorie too, though they can be hard to spot. There is nothing to suggest that the creeper-encrusted A la Vida is a restaurant (the ancient building used to house the College of Doctors), except for a tiny menu stuck in the window and maybe an exquisite whiff of grilled fish.

Inside, a distinctively cool Venetian atmosphere is created by the high ceiling, dark furniture, bare striped wallpaper, and pin-striped professional men who gather there for lunch. A la Vida's specialities—risotto con gamberetti (tiny, painstakingly shelled fresh shrimps), grilled tunny and mackerel (both wonderfully juicy), quail with polenta, even the peperoncini agrodolce (pimenton in sweet-sour sauce) all epitomize Prince Curnonsky's maxim that "things should taste of what they are".

The same sort of fare will be found at a similarly unobtrusive Venetian restaurant, the Antica Besseta, which is extremely difficult to find even on a second visit. A typical menu, recited by the owner, Signor Volpe, might include canocchie (a subtly flavoured species of scampi), poroto graticcio, seppie (inkfish) with polenta, not too overpowering a sauce, mountains of frogs' legs cooked in batter, and eel (skinned, boned, split open and grilled). Even the mixed

salad is hit by the addition of Treviso chitoni and rocke.

Diners often a weak point in Italian restaurants, here include a deliciously tangy semifreddo with bitter chocolate and whisky.

The Antica Besseta's pleasure 1974. Pinot and Cabernet wines from nearby Treviso are bottled by Signor Volpe himself. This practice is uncommon and as a general rule it is difficult to order interesting wine in all but the most expensive Italian restaurants. Either they offer little beyond second-rate Chianti or carafe wine (though the latter is excellent value at its virtually standard price of 1,000 lire per litre), or they do not know what the bottles in their cellars contain.

Another place that bottles its own wine (Lambrusco and Sangiovese) is the Al Dsevo in Parma, a smart but unstylish ristorante where bourgeois families—children, grandparents and all—gather for Sunday lunch.

At Al Dsevo you naturally begin with their delizie di Parma, a platter of coppa salumi, salame, fette di cotechino (home-made sausage), which is now at the Royal Court. Theatregoers who were turned away from the packed-out showings at the Soho Poly may be getting a taste of the new regime at the Court when they see the production there, for

it should call a pudding.

As one goes farther south, there is an noticeable accented in the rhythm and style of Italian restaurants. In Rome, service can be impersonal or even curt, particularly in the trendy and overpriced Trastevere area. But when at its best, as it is at the Ambasciata d'Abruzzo, the waiters succeed in being eagle-eyed, unobtrusive and friendly, though yellow, and is at once sweet, salt and pungent to the palate. The semifreddo is home-made, as is the Nocino, an efficient digestif made from green walnuts, sugar, cloves, cinnamon and lemon pectin steeped in fruit spirits.

It is reliably reported that two old favourites, the Don Chisciotte in Bologna, and Sostanza in Florence, are keeping up their standards. The Don Chisciotte is celebrated for its turkey alla pietronina, while Sostanza (known disrespectfully by the locals as Il Trota—the hulot) is still regularly thronged with its curiously heterogeneous clientele, who have come to savour the monstrous Florentine steaks and superb meringue cake. But there are pleasures to be had in wine bars too, if sight-seeing leaves you time for only a snack. Facchini (via Alabelli 15, Bologna) offers a spectacular range of Italian wines; and the Fiascheria (via dei Neri 2, Florence) is a crowded stand-up joint with few wines but some delicious out-of-the-ordinary titbits, such as crostoli and delicate veal tripe served cold with salsa verde.

The meal begins with a whole cooked ham covered with crushed peppercorns being heaved on to your table. When you have carved as much as you want, they bring a mound of brawn and a basket of five different kinds of salame. After an interlude (mozzarella and/or ricotta cheese), you are invited to leave your table and help yourself to a huge assortment of antipasto from a sideboard. There follows a selection of three different types of pasta, including a delicious ravioli con spinaci. The "main" course ranges from Abruzzi peasant specialities such as meat balls or pork rind and beans to the more subtle bocconcini di robiola, lamb, lightly flavoured with mint and rosemary (this is a dish worth going out of your way to taste). For those who can manage it, cheese and dessert are also thrown in. But the meal is the traditional platter of raw calamari and Florentine fennel. Coffee, then arrives with Amaro to help with the considerable task of digestion.

The bill, which covers everything including as much wine and Amaro as you want, is calculated by guesswork according to Signori Nazzareno and D'Carlo, who run the Ambasciata. It can vary from 5,000L to 7,000L "depending on your intake". The style and cuisine of their restaurant is indeed a far cry from that of the Antica Besseta in Venice. *Viva la differenza!*

A la Vida, Campo S. Giacomo dell'Oro 1507, Venice. Tel 28931. Closed Monday. Meal about 5,000L. Antica Besseta, S. Croce N. 135, Call. Stretta ai Bari, Venice. Tel 37687. Closed Wednesday. Meal about 7,000L.

Sostanza, via della Porcellana 23, Florence. Tel 27691. Closed Sunday. Meal about 7,000L. Mariotti da "Mugolone", via dei Pellegrini 6, Siena. Tel 26325. Closed Thursday. Meal about 5,000L. Ambasciata d'Abruzzo, via Tacchini 26, Rome. Tel 87826. Closed Sunday. Meal about 6,000L.

Sign of the times: the Electricity Council's boulder Electricity in Your Garden, the first edition of which appeared in 1946, and of which over 600,000 copies were given away free, has been rewritten and reillustrated. But the new edition will cost you 50p from electricity showrooms or garden centres. It has a foreword by Percy Thrower.

It covers all aspects of the use of electricity in the garden, in the greenhouse, with powered tools in the garden and the workshop, with garden pools, decorative lighting, swimming pools and saunas. (There is also a very useful and salutary chapter reminding us of the hazards involved with electricity if elementary safety precautions are not observed.)

A few weeks ago I was saying I wished I could report that prices of motorized garden equipment were coming down. Now, at least I can report the launching of a new, very keenly priced mains voltage 12in rotary electric mower, the "Super T", which has a grass collection box and an unusually powerful 525 watt motor. Black and Decker claim it is the most powerful light electric mower on the market, rotary or cylinder. It weighs under 14lb and costs £32.95 including the grass box, 50 feet of cable, and VAT.

KEN MUIR (TT ASPARAGUS OFFER), HONEYPOD FARM, WEELEY HEATH, CLACTON ON SEA, ESSEX CO16 9BZ.

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PLEASE SUPPLYPACK(S) 50 LORELLA
ASPARAGUS CROWNS WITH FREE
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I enclose Cheque/P.O. made payable to KEN MUIR for
Closing date for this offer 30th April 1977.
Allow up to 21 days for delivery.

Formerly asparagus was grown in long raised beds. Experiments at Luddington Experimental Horticultural Station have shown that this method of cultivation is now outdated. The modern practice is to grow asparagus in three-row flat beds at one foot spacing each way, the beds being divided by paths, each 12ft wide.

Asparagus is now grown without earthing up and the crop is harvested by snapping off the shoots at ground level. An earlier crop has resulted from the crown being nearer the surface and the closer planting has given a much higher yield.

A detailed line drawing of a hand holding a bunch of asparagus spears. The hand is shown from the side, gripping the stems. The asparagus spears are long and thin, with small leaves (catkins) at the top. The drawing is done in a realistic style with fine lines and shading.

If you have ever enjoyed the piquant taste of genuine French Asparagus, it is something you will never forget. When it comes to a single vegetable delicacy, you're bound to agree the best will satisfy the gourmets — LORELLA ASPARAGUS. The subtlety of its unique sweet flavour and thick milk-white green-tipped spears makes it the

best. It has an adjustable pram handle, and the height of cut is variable between 1in and 1½in by simple adjustment of the front wheels. It is certainly a versatile machine, and, while not self-propelled, is very

Theatre

Barrie Keeffe: the play's the thing

At the age of 31 Barrie Keeffe has reluctantly conceded that he will never play professional football; moreover, he has recently given up the regular wages of a reporter for the East London weekly, the *Stratford Express*. Since June of last year he has been making his living entirely through playwriting, even though he is considerably surprised if any of his plays earn more than £100. Had there been any wood in the circle bar of the Royal Court Theatre where we were speaking he would have touched it.

A production which has already achieved more than token success is the Soho Theatre Club's presentation of his trilogy, *Gimmie Shelter*, which is now at the Royal Court. Theatregoers who were turned away from the packed-out showings at the Soho Poly may be getting a taste of the new regime at the Court when they see the production there, for

two of the trilogy's short plays were turned down by the Court when they were first submitted. Those two, *Gem* and *Gotcha*, were first staged individually at the Soho Poly before the theatre's artistic director, Verity Bargate, arranged a showing of the trilogy and a major new fringe touring company, the Network, picked up the production.

Unlike many of the younger generation of playwrights, Keeffe did not figure in university did not figure in Keeffe's background. He was born in East Ham, London, and, after attending grammar school there, went on to a variety of jobs, some of which, like sports and journalism, have provided material for his plays. But, though writing was long an interest and despite two seasons as an actor with the National Youth Theatre, it was not plays that interested him at first.

A novel, *Gadabout*, written when he was 18, was published

in 1969. He thinks it was a bad novel: "Mercifully, it's out of print. I've bought up great piles of them when I've seen them on remainder at railway stations. I've spent a fortune buying up the bloody things."

It was a mishap with his second novel which led him to write his first play, a television play called *The Substitute*, which Granada did in 1972. After the first novel, "I wrote a second one which was going to be the great East End novel. It was very, very long; about a quarter of a million words and it spanned three generations of Cockneys."

"I was taking it round to a girl friend to get it typed—it sounds very stupid but I didn't have a carbon copy as it was a first draft, covered with corrections—and she wasn't in. I had it in my car and went for a drink with some friends. I came back—I had a souped-up Alfa Romeo with racing seats and the racing seats had been

nicked, the wheels had been taken off subjects and characters which may not be considered suitable for the West End. This far, although his play *Scriber* made the journey from the Tyne-side Theatre Company in Newcastle to the Greenwich Theatre, and *Gimmie Shelter* to the Royal Court, he has never written for the West End, having in mind perhaps Joan Littlewood's uncommercial and successful transfers.

Keeffe's next project is a collaboration with Britain's leading experimental company, Joint Stock, on a play in the manner of Jacobean comedy. It will take the same name as Thomas Middleton's *A Mad World, My Masters*, but just what final form it will take with Joint Stock, Keeffe will not know until the first performance.

In the meantime, as Thames Television's resident dramatist at the Shaw Theatre, he is writing a play for the National Youth Theatre as he has done for the past two years. Television commissions are in line and two of the plays in his trilogy will be seen on television, separately.

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His characters are alienated within the British class system and rendered impotent by it. A legacy of his schoolboy visits to the Theatre Workshop, which has not yet shown interest in his scripts, is a devot

ionalism which has been held up while his union, the Theatre Writers' Union to which most of Britain's playwrights now belong, is negotiating for recognition.

His journalistic habits have not yet died and his wish to be able to write two hours a day, or so, there go about his leisure, have given way to familiar deadlines and after-night sessions at the typewriter. Because rock music has been a part of his life and he would like to bring some of that energy back into his theatre, he carefully stores recordings into his plays, even writing to the back-cover of a particular record trying to catch its feel for the character. *The Rolling Stones' Rolling Gold* was his soundtrack for *Gotcha*, previously he used the Beatles' *Let It Be* and Van Morrison's *Astral Weeks* while he was writing for the Joint Stock play he has been listening to the Beach Boys' greatest hits.

which may not be considered suitable for the West End. This far, although his play *Scriber* made the journey from the Tyne-side Theatre Company in Newcastle to the Greenwich Theatre, and *Gimmie Shelter* to the Royal Court, he has never written for the West End, having in mind perhaps Joan Littlewood's uncommercial and successful transfers.

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Ned Channing

Gardening

Spray a while

Some four or five years ago I mentioned that surprising results had been obtained by watering or spraying a foliage feed on daffodil bulbs. Since then I had many reports from readers saying that when they had done this the daffodils had increased and were splendidly generous with their flowers.

We too, started to feed our daffodils, applying Phosphogypsum, Foliar Fertiliser, and heavily P.E.I. Fertiliser. We use a sprayer, and we start spraying about now, giving the foliage a feed about every 10 days until it withers in June until about four or five applications in all.

First, we only treated the daffodils, but three years ago we gave all the bulbs and corms on the premises their foliar feeds. All these bulbs have had the same four or five treatments and this year the build up of flowering sized bulbs has been spectacular.

If we have time we will lift and divide many of the clumps of crocuses, snowdrops and other bulbs. I only wish we had known about foliar feeding bulbs 20 years ago because over the years I have planted thousands of small bulbs and so many of them have dwindled away.

I do suggest that you devote half an hour every week or 10 days spraying the foliage of all your naturalized bulbs with a foliar feed until the foliage begins to turn brown. It is not a trouble—the coating was not moistened or kept moist long enough. So after sowing pelleted seeds, water the ground well and see that it does not dry out thereafter.

The choice of hardy annuals is obviously a personal matter, but I am very fond of the various calendula, annual cineraria, cornflowers, larkspur and cosmos, all good for cutting. Alysium and爱丽丝花 (Lathyrus) are also good, but they are not so much in demand. I have never seen them in flower, but I have seen them in flower after flowering and give a second, or even a third crop, and *Lathyrus* with its large rose pink shell shaped flowers is a plant I am surprised is not grown more often.

Much work has been done with sweet peas in the past 10 years or so—mainly in the production of dwarf types—Ejou, about 12 inches, Jet Set, three feet, and Little Elf, two and a half feet, mixtures for example. These all carry quite large flowers on stems long enough for cutting. If you have only a small garden or a window box, some tubs or window boxes, you can still enjoy sowing sweet peas by growing the Ejou mixture. As with all sweet peas, the more you pick them, the more they flower.

If annual flowers have a drawback it is that the flowers must be sedulously removed, as much to keep the plants looking tidy as to ensure a long season of flowering. Once annuals have set seeds they tend to give up producing more flowers, but most of them, if they are dead headed every week, will flower over a long period.

Roy Hay

in 1969. He thinks it was a bad novel: "Mercifully, it's out of print. I've bought up great piles of them when I've seen them on remainder at railway stations. I've spent a fortune buying up the bloody things."

It was a mishap with his second novel which led him to write his first play, a television play called *The Substitute*, which Granada did in 1972. After the first novel, "I wrote a second one which was going to be the great East End novel. It was very, very long; about a quarter of a million words and it spanned three generations of Cockneys."

"I was taking it round to a girl friend to get it typed—it sounds very stupid but I didn't have a carbon copy as it was a first draft, covered with corrections—and she wasn't in. I had it in my car and went for a drink with some friends. I came back—I had a souped-up Alfa Romeo with racing seats and the racing seats had been

nicked, the wheels had been taken off subjects and characters which may not be considered suitable for the West End. This far, although his play *Scriber* made the journey from the Tyne-side Theatre Company in Newcastle to the Greenwich Theatre, and *Gimmie Shelter* to the Royal Court, he has never written for the West End, having in mind perhaps Joan Littlewood's uncommercial and successful transfers

Chess

The charmed circle

April 12 the English team will be setting out for Moscow, to undergo its severest since the last European Championship Finals in 1973. This champion, the brain-child of my good Dr. Wilfried Doradz, is always a fearsomely event with teams that do contain the quintessence of European chess.

The titleholders are, and as have been, the USSR the seven countries that qualified to join them in final are as follows:— and from Group 1; Hungary Romania from Group 2; Yugoslavia and Bulgaria from p 3; Czechoslovakia from p 4; and West Germany Group 5.

At England qualified from 1 ahead of the power-Dutch team we owe almost to the brave resistance up by the Welsh to them in the preliminary group, then referring to results of each chess week. I find I forgot to mention one possible cause, it was the position given in game in Wales by Mr.

the Mayor-elect of Rysthym. Would all mayors as energetic as he is in incing the cause of chess, at this time England occupied respectable position of sixth of eight. How will the team this time? The first point make is that Moscow will only be a stronger event.

At this time we Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia in place of Poland and Ireland, who rather surprisingly and luckily qualified for

I think the English team is slightly stronger than it was last. It is, in board order,

Keesel, Hartston, Stean, Nunn, Mestel, Whiteley, Webb, Bellin, Speelman and Rumens as the two reserves. Of these, Keesel, Hartston and Stean, who played at Bath as well, have increased in strength and in addition there are two talented newcomers in Nunn and Mestel.

Also, it could have been even stronger but Tony Miles, who was originally on the list as first board, has instead chosen to accept an invitation to play in a tournament in Brazil. This is a thousand miles away from the Moscow event will be highly regrettable, not only from the aspect of the English team's results there but also in relation to the further progress of Tony Miles himself.

To those who believe that now he has gained the official title of grandmaster much further progress is unnecessary for Tony Miles, I would say that his acquisition of the title is neither here nor there. It is a title held in common by such great players as Botvinnik, Fischer and Karpov and the paper tigers who constitute about half of the total of official grandmasters and are known collectively as colleagues of Damjanovic.

In order to break through to the charmed circle of those deemed to be rivals of the world champion, our grandmaster will have to play against the best in the world. At Moscow he should have met no less than five of the world's top Karpov, Petrosian, Ljubojevic (or Gligoric), Hort and Hubner.

Good scores against this admittedly formidable quartet are not beyond his powers and would certainly have enhanced his reputation. It is not too late for Tony Miles to change his mind and it would gratify his many admirers in British chess if he were to abandon his

Brazilian trip in favour of the harder but more rewarding Moscow event.

He was absent from the English team at the Clare Benedict Team Tournament in Copenhagen last month and whilst the English side did pretty well in coming second to Denmark in this strong West European event his presence might have given us chances for first place.

The final scores were:— Denmark 18; England 17; Sweden 14; Spain 14; Austria 13; West Germany and Norway 12; and Switzerland 10.

The Danish grandmaster, Bent Larsen, was a tower of strength on top board where he scored four wins and three draws and played in every round. But Hartston and Stean both gained points for the highest scores on boards 2 and 3 and Keesel held his own on top board and drew his game with Larsen. Rumens too did well on bottom board with a 70 per cent score, but Webb was quite our of form and scored only 25 per cent. One hopes this is purely temporary and that he will show his true capabilities at Moscow.

The calm efficiency and positive savoir faire with which Keesel beats the West German top board in the following game from the Clare Benedict augur well for his performance on that board at Moscow.

White: H. Lehmann. Black: R. D. Keene. QP Queen's Indian Defence.

1. P-K4 P-K5 2. P-QB4 P-QB5 3. K-B3 K-B3 4. P-QB3 P-QB4 5. K-B2 K-B2 6. P-QB4 P-QB5 7. K-B3 K-B3 8. P-QB3 P-QB4 9. K-B2 K-B2 10. P-QB4 P-QB5 11. K-B3 K-B3 12. P-QB3 P-QB4 13. K-B2 K-B2 14. P-QB3 P-QB4 15. K-B3 K-B3 16. P-QB3 P-QB4 17. K-B2 K-B2 18. P-QB3 P-QB4 19. K-B3 K-B3 20. P-QB3 P-QB4 21. K-B2 K-B2 22. P-QB3 P-QB4 23. K-B3 K-B3 24. P-QB3 P-QB4 25. K-B2 K-B2 26. P-QB3 P-QB4 27. K-B3 K-B3 28. P-QB3 P-QB4 29. K-B2 K-B2 30. P-QB3 P-QB4 31. K-B3 K-B3 32. P-QB3 P-QB4 33. K-B2 K-B2 34. P-QB3 P-QB4 35. K-B3 K-B3 36. P-QB3 P-QB4 37. K-B2 K-B2 38. P-QB3 P-QB4 39. K-B3 K-B3 40. P-QB3 P-QB4 41. K-B2 K-B2 42. P-QB3 P-QB4 43. K-B3 K-B3 44. P-QB3 P-QB4 45. K-B2 K-B2 46. P-QB3 P-QB4 47. K-B3 K-B3 48. P-QB3 P-QB4 49. K-B2 K-B2 50. P-QB3 P-QB4 51. K-B3 K-B3 52. P-QB3 P-QB4 53. K-B2 K-B2 54. P-QB3 P-QB4 55. K-B3 K-B3 56. P-QB3 P-QB4 57. K-B2 K-B2 58. P-QB3 P-QB4 59. K-B3 K-B3 60. P-QB3 P-QB4 61. K-B2 K-B2 62. P-QB3 P-QB4 63. K-B3 K-B3 64. P-QB3 P-QB4 65. K-B2 K-B2 66. P-QB3 P-QB4 67. K-B3 K-B3 68. P-QB3 P-QB4 69. K-B2 K-B2 70. P-QB3 P-QB4 71. K-B3 K-B3 72. P-QB3 P-QB4 73. K-B2 K-B2 74. P-QB3 P-QB4 75. K-B3 K-B3 76. P-QB3 P-QB4 77. K-B2 K-B2 78. P-QB3 P-QB4 79. K-B3 K-B3 80. P-QB3 P-QB4 81. K-B2 K-B2 82. P-QB3 P-QB4 83. K-B3 K-B3 84. P-QB3 P-QB4 85. K-B2 K-B2 86. P-QB3 P-QB4 87. K-B3 K-B3 88. P-QB3 P-QB4 89. K-B2 K-B2 90. P-QB3 P-QB4 91. K-B3 K-B3 92. P-QB3 P-QB4 93. K-B2 K-B2 94. P-QB3 P-QB4 95. K-B3 K-B3 96. P-QB3 P-QB4 97. K-B2 K-B2 98. P-QB3 P-QB4 99. K-B3 K-B3 100. P-QB3 P-QB4 101. K-B2 K-B2 102. P-QB3 P-QB4 103. K-B3 K-B3 104. P-QB3 P-QB4 105. K-B2 K-B2 106. P-QB3 P-QB4 107. K-B3 K-B3 108. P-QB3 P-QB4 109. K-B2 K-B2 110. P-QB3 P-QB4 111. K-B3 K-B3 112. P-QB3 P-QB4 113. K-B2 K-B2 114. P-QB3 P-QB4 115. K-B3 K-B3 116. P-QB3 P-QB4 117. K-B2 K-B2 118. P-QB3 P-QB4 119. K-B3 K-B3 120. P-QB3 P-QB4 121. K-B2 K-B2 122. P-QB3 P-QB4 123. K-B3 K-B3 124. P-QB3 P-QB4 125. K-B2 K-B2 126. P-QB3 P-QB4 127. K-B3 K-B3 128. P-QB3 P-QB4 129. K-B2 K-B2 130. P-QB3 P-QB4 131. K-B3 K-B3 132. 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Geoffrey Keynes, the dreamer who was undeniably a man of action as well

Sir Geoffrey Keynes, pictured right, the distinguished surgeon and literary editor was 90 yesterday. His lifelong friend, author, David Garnett, recalls their first meeting.

I was staying at Grantchester with Rupert Brooke, to whom I had been introduced by Noel Olivier, and was taken, only in the summer morning by a short walk, Geoffrey Keynes, and my first sight of him was halfway up the stairs, urging Rupert to hurry and come out and bathe in Byron's pool. He had run out from Cambridge and as soon as we had had our swim, he ran off again refusing to stay for breakfast. Even then, every hour was allotted and his day was full.

He was tall and beneath his youth and gaiety there was a high-metalled impatience for action. That was in 1910.

Just over four years later he was in uniform and went to see him at Addenbrooke's. As I had spent those years as a science student and knew something of bacteriology, I thought that I might make a good lab attendant in an army medical unit, and it shows how little Geoffrey did not speak words of sympathy: I did not express gratitude, but in some circumstances words are not needed, or possible.

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Has young Mr Steel, who will be 39 next week, succeeded in dishing the Liberal Party within a year of becoming its leader? There are many who think so, some with satisfaction, others with dismay. What is hardly in doubt is that he has embarked on a dangerous course by his alliance with Mr Callaghan.

The Liberals could easily impair their identity as a distinctive political force. Mr Steel has committed them to a form of coalition which suits the Government's immediate purposes very well. The advantage to his own party is less apparent.

He speaks of acquiring influence at the centre of affairs. This he has undeniably achieved in the sense that he has propped up a failing administration and prevented a general election. To those who believe that it was in the national interest to do so, this is commendation enough. Many think differently, however—and they are not all Conservatives. To my mind, the Liberals are more likely to lose reputation than to gain it. The electoral consequences of the compact may be severe.

The great Lord Rosebery had a phrase: "The fly-blown phrasology of the Liberal Party." They have been much in evidence in this week's display of self-righteousness.

Mr Callaghan can meanwhile congratulate himself on providing further proof of his capacity for survival if not durability.

George Hutchinson

How close has Mr Steel come to dishing the Liberals?

The consequences of the deal could easily impair the Liberals' identity as a distinctive political force.

I do not suppose, however, that he would have taken defeat so tragically if he had lost that vote on Wednesday night and then the ensuing election. With every justification he could have blamed Sir Harold Wilson more than himself. It is Sir Harold's record that does the Labour Party rather than Mr Callaghan's.

Believing as she does that an election cannot be long delayed, Mrs Thatcher may also feel, on reflection, that the week's developments are likely to serve and assist her own interests. Support for the Liberals, which appeared to be increasing,

may now be checked, while the unrest of the Labour left must be expected to grow if Mr Steel and his little band should actually succeed in moderating Government policy—and even the attempt will inflame the Marxists.

But there are other considerations, too. For one thing, there was the possible bumerang effect of precipitating an election so very suddenly by resort to a motion of confidence, a tactic rarely employed. For another, the Conservative Party organization is not yet fully prepared, although gathering strength week by week.

For many months it has been Mrs Thatcher's instinct—her conviction—that an election will occur this year, not from the Prime Minister's choice but under the pressure of events. Accordingly, she and Lord Thorneycroft, the party chairman, have been working towards a state of readiness. In several spheres their organizational arrangements are well advanced—but there are still a number of deficiencies, not least in the information services.

Above all, perhaps, their policies are in need of fuller exposition, of greater definition and precision. On this reasoning, Mrs Thatcher may think herself fortunate to have escaped the test for the moment. When it does come, she should be better equipped for victory.

Times Newspapers Ltd, 1977



The man who helped to make table tennis more than just a game of ping-pong

Sportsview

serving, which was an American practice; and the introduction of time limits to matches.

This followed some farcical stonewalling in the 1930s when some individual points were representative matches were contested for several hours.

Nowadays it is the sheer speed of the sport, calling for superb reflexes of mind and eye, which makes the biggest impression on the casual spectator. In a one-minute rally 13 hits and upwards have been recorded and the speed of a smashed hit has been timed at more than 100mph.

Without question the greatest contribution by any one Englishman to the game's development throughout the world has come from Mr Montagu. He was the international federation's first chairman, and remained in office for 41 years.

It was Mr Montagu's legacy from his grandfather who paid for the 1926 event. He had also a newsworthy career in film producing, journalism and as a worker for world peace, but his lifetime's dedication to his chosen game, a hardly be matched by another official in sport.

Mr Montagu was responsible for the federation becoming the first governing body sport to give their players open status. In the 1920s you were a professional in a sport, you often could not play as an amateur in another. The issue arose in table tennis in curious way and followed some high spirited late night gambling in the streets of Prague.

Charles Bull, the Kent Worcestershire cricketer, was also an England table tennis player. With all the advance of a deep Fieldman's shot, throw and accurate aim, it proved a devastating smash ball as the English team celebrated a victory. His power triggered off talks about the problems for a professional sportsman in an amateur game, and Mr Montagu ensured that the federation rules were changed.

Fred Perry, most famous a Wimbledon title winner, a England's first individual men's world champion, he won at Budapest in 1928. No English woman has won the world singles title, though Ann Haydon, another Wimbledon champion, is among several who have been runners-up. England's last win came from the Rowe in the 1954 women's doubles.

This year the Chinese players are expected to dominate every event. England's place in table tennis history, though, rests on odd things, such as matches which will clearly remain semi-final even if they never again another title.

Richard Street

The hidden Rabbi inside Leonard Bernstein



In a rare interview, Leonard Bernstein explains that there is much more to his musical life than conducting and composing. During his recent visit to London he talked to John Gross...

Sepulchrally quiet in Southwark where the glare of the traffic is stilled by the double-glazed efficiency of the Honey-Wood Hall. In an island of light amid a crowded musicians stands Leonard Bernstein, still leonine at 58 years of age, immaculately cashmereed and baton poised.

A musician among musicians. Yes, he is to tell me later, "it is true. That is how I describe myself on those forms beloved of bureaucracy, where there is a space for protestation, I always write 'musician', I am a musician foremost but I am also a teacher."

"I want to share what I know about music. It is no fun just to know it yourself. You must communicate it. Music is not an isolated phenomenon, nor should be an act of sharing and education. If I err, if I stress things unduly, it is in pursuit of this educational drive. Somewhere in me, there is a hidden rabbi..." Bernstein leaves the sentence unfinished—a dotted chord, lingering in the silence before where it had left off.

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MR DESAI AND MR RAM

It was hardly likely that in the course of the Indian election campaign much emphasis would have been laid on the great difficulties the Janata coalition would face if it should defeat Mrs Gandhi's Congress. Yet those difficulties in the choice of a leader and in the cohesiveness of the coalition were plain to see. So it is now proving. Mr Desai's acquisition of the leadership has exposed the rivalry in that quarter, as Mr Jagjivan Ram and his Congress for Democracy at first withdrew, sulking, refusing to come closer to the existing coalition. The problems within the coalition may also be sensed in the delay over announcing Cabinet appointments.

Mr Jagjivan Ram's role in all this may be laid bare without undue crudity. His ambition to take over the leadership of Congress from Mrs Gandhi led him to forsake her once the election had been announced and he sensed that the wind would not be in her quarter. His Congress for Democracy could therefore swim with the opposition tide and his political influence in northern India could be used in its aid to bring about Mrs Gandhi's defeat while leaving him free, if the outcome favoured it, to return to the Congress ranks when it was ready to evict Mrs Gandhi from the leadership. Alternatively, an opposition victory would give him the chance of leading it by having become its strong man and saviour.

In the event he has lost on both expectations. Mrs Gandhi's defeat was so great that the

surviving Congress is no longer worth leading—not as it miserably stands, holding its position only in the southern states where Mr Ram has no real foothold. Yet the victory of the Janata Party was one to which Mr Jagjivan Ram's personal contribution in terms of seats won was not so great as to give him sufficient leverage to contest the choice of Mr Morarji Desai—who is older, whose ministerial record is more impressive, and whose determined ambition is quite as strong as Mr Ram's. He has now had to accept a Cabinet post as the best he can get in the situation in which he finds himself.

Has Mr Morarji Desai the capacity to make a coherent party out of the four groups composing the Janata coalition? He has outlined a programme that might serve well enough for parties that are anchored slightly more to the right than to the left—say for the relatively weak Socialists. But just as the Liberal-Democratic Party in Japan has been understood only by analysing its factions, so Indian politics at this stage, thirty years after independence, must be read in terms of factions which once formed part of the united Congress that set out to rule independent India.

That Congress is now divided into four parts. One is the defeated party in which Mrs Gandhi's leadership has now been inherited by Mr Chavan, lately India's Foreign Minister. Then there is the Congress for Democracy of Mr Jagjivan Ram

that may now have lost its moorings but will certainly remain politically active. Then there are the two factions within the Janata Party: Mr Morarji Desai's wing of Congress which regarded Mrs Gandhi as a temporary leader when she was put in in 1966 and which broke away over the policy issue of bank nationalization in 1969, when she was striking fast and looked as though she would be hard to evict. The other ex-Congress body is led by Mr Charan Singh, once chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, who fell out with Mrs Gandhi and founded his own Indian People's Party (BLD). Mr Charan Singh's role in the opposition victory has certainly been considerable and he will have an important post in Mr Desai's team.

Apart from the two Communist parties—one a discontented ex-partner of Mrs Gandhi's Congress; the other an ally of the opposition though not part of the coalition, the only other party that matters in India, and may in the near future matter a good deal, is the Jana Sangh. In terms of organization and membership it is the next in India to Congress in size but its following is much more in the north than in the south. Its Hindu leanings may find in Mr Desai an acceptable leader. But even if his vigour is undiminished at eighty-one his inflexibility will certainly make his management of the coalition a much more difficult task than those he has taken on in his long career in politics.

MR CARTER AND THE PALESTINIANS

The past three weeks have seen a number of significant developments affecting the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Israeli Prime Minister has visited Washington. The Palestine National Council has met in Cairo and revised its political programme. The American and Soviet leaders have both spelt out their ideas on the solution of the conflict in greater detail than before, apparently moving a little closer together in the process. And last night a new Middle East debate began in the United Nations Security Council.

Mr Rabin's visit to Washington did not in itself alter the known outlines of the problem, but it did serve as the stimulus, or at least the starting-point, for a series of statements by Mr Carter. First he delighted the Israelis by endorsing their need for "defensible borders". Then he explained that he thought Israel could, for "the foreseeable future", keep defence lines beyond whatever were agreed to be the permanent and recognized legal borders. The Arabs took offence at this, but the Israelis too were upset by Mr Carter's "guess" that the borders to which Israel would have to withdraw in return for full peace would involve only "minor adjustments" in the 1967 borders.

The Israelis got a further shock last week when Mr Carter informed the unsuspecting inhabitants of Clinton, Massachusetts, that "there has to be a homeland provided for the Palestinian refugees who have suffered so many, many years", and then went on to shake hands (clearly on purpose) with the PLO

observer at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The word he used was carefully chosen: it does not commit him to support an independent Palestinian state, any more than in 1917 Balfour's promise of a "national home in Palestine" for the Jews committed Britain to create a Jewish state. But it is a word as charged with emotional significance for Palestinians now as it was for Jews then.

It confirms, too, what Mr Carter's statements about other areas of the world had already suggested—that his concern for human rights is genuine and universal in its application. Just as his anxiety for a Salt agreement does not weaken his concern about the fate of Soviet Jews and other dissidents, so his unquestionably firm support for Israel's existence will not weaken his concern at the suffering of Palestinian refugees—or, one may surmise, of the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation, whose situation was the object of a unanimous expression of concern by the Security Council last November and has certainly not improved since.

Mr Carter wants to help the Palestinians, and his statement was publicly welcomed by Mr Yassir Arafat. But he may well feel that the Palestinians—or at least the 322 of them who assembled in Cairo and unanimously re-elected Mr Arafat as their leader—are not helping him. The Palestine National Council has reaffirmed the PLO's rejection of Resolution 242 and any negotiations based on it, as well as "all types of American capitulationist projects". It has urged the PLO to "escalate the

armed struggle in the occupied territory", and has decided "to adhere to the support for the Palestine Revolution in order to regain the constant national rights of the Palestinian Arab people without any conciliation or recognition" (sc of Israel).

One can of course explain that such decisions were the necessary price of Mr Arafat's victory in breaking up the former "rejection front" (now apparently reduced to Mr George Habash's group and denied, for the time at least, even Iraqi support). One can point to the clauses emphasizing the need for "an independent national state on their national soil" (ie, not, in the first instance, a "democratic" state in the whole of Palestine) and asserting "the PLO's rights to participate independently and on an equal footing in all the conferences and international forums concerned with the Palestine issue and the Arab-Zionist conflict"—thus apparently leaving Mr Arafat free to accept an invitation to the Geneva Conference provided it does not actually have "Resolution 242" stamped all over it. But these scarcely provide Mr Carter with arguments to persuade the Israelis to allow such an invitation to be issued, any more than Mr Brezhnev's generous admission that "the drawing up of peace terms in every detail is primarily a matter for the conflicting sides themselves" will persuade them to accept his offer to place Soviet observers in the demilitarized zones. There are still many obstacles to be removed before a settlement will be in sight.

London to destinations on the Continent and westwards from Hong Kong that the American airlines have an unfair advantage. On the other issues, the scope for negotiation is clearer. There seems already to have been some movement towards an understanding on the share-out of routes on the North Atlantic itself, and although it is unrealistic to suppose that the United States would accept the principle of one American airline on the New York-London route, they have in practice cut back their flights from many other cities.

On the other main demand of the United Kingdom, that there should be action to limit surplus capacity, the real interests of both countries do not differ greatly. The United States has no more wish than we have to see aircraft flying nearly empty, but the United Kingdom ought not to be so committed to the interests of its national airline that it forgets that passengers pay heavily on scheduled flights and should expect to get a seat when they need one.

A FAIRER SHARE OF THE TRAFFIC

With only three months to go before the Bermuda agreement on air traffic between the United Kingdom and the United States expires, we are still a long way from a new agreement. The talks next week in Washington between the two countries should provide an opportunity to sort out those issues where the differences are matters of degree, on which a compromise should be possible, and those where more fundamental issues of principle are at stake.

Some of the principles are clear. It is pointless even to try to negotiate a new agreement if the other partner is not willing or able to implement the present one on matters which are inconvenient. The failure to allow Concorde to use New York airport owes more to internal Democratic politics in that state than it does to policy of the United States Government; but it is clear that under the terms of the present agreement Concorde does have a right to land in New York. The failure of the Washington Administration to

ensure that that right is respected ought to be rectified at once.

These doubts are reinforced by the evident unwillingness of the United States to give up some of the more obviously unfair advantages which it has enjoyed since the original Bermuda settlement was reached in 1947. The most notable of these is the so-called "fifth freedom", which in practice allows American airlines to fly from British territory to destinations other than the United States. For example, Pan American flies to nine European cities from London, with the possibility of taking some of the short-distance traffic. It is clearly an unequal arrangement which allows the United States airlines to do this when British Airways cannot compete for internal traffic in the United States. This point has more than theoretical importance. On the North Atlantic route alone, the imbalance in revenues is not, probably, an insuperable problem. It is in their flights from

Northern Ireland about the allegations made by Mr O'Connor? They could still have reserved the right to put out the programme covering the complaint if they felt the allegations had not been properly considered. At least it would have meant that the RUC's point of view was heard.

Would that have conflicted with the BBC's declared duty "to reflect the conflict in all its manifestations"? And would it not have shown some responsibility towards the men and women of the Royal Ulster Constabulary who have recently suffered their hundredth fatal casualty? Day after day they seek to bring law and order to every part of Northern Ireland. That depends on the trust and confidence which all the community has in their impartiality.

BBC reporting in Ulster

From Mr Michael McNair-Wilson, MP for Newbury, Berkshire (Conservative)

Sir, Sir Michael Swann's and Mr Keith Kyle's letter on the BBC's reporting of events in Northern Ireland will arouse more concern than any they may allow.

Sir Michael (March 22), in his defence of the Kyle interview on the *Tonight* programme, asks what practical alternative was open to the BBC except to put out the interview since it raised a matter of public concern: May I make a suggestion?

Before broadcasting it, why didn't the BBC inform the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Secretary of State for

Mr Kyle's interview can hardly have helped in that task. Yet in his letter of March 23 he sees fit to justify his interview by further unsubstantiated suggestions that the RUC may have flouted the Attorney General's undertakings that certain deep interrogation techniques used in 1971 would not be reintroduced.

Certainly the BBC has the duty to inform. But in so violent a situation as Northern Ireland does not it have an overriding responsibility to support those entrusted with law and order until it is in possession of all the facts relating to an allegation of brutality?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL McNAIR-WILSON,
House of Commons.

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Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL McNAIR-WILSON,
House of Commons.

March 23

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Liberal Party support for the Labour Government

From Professor F. E. G. Cox

Sir, The decision of the Liberal MPs to join with the Labour Party has effectively disenfranchised many of the professional middle class. We voted Liberal in large numbers because we did not want to vote for either the Labour Party with its policies, which many of us consider to be divisive and destructive, or for the Conservatives, with their apparent disregard for underprivileged individuals and human rights and dignity. Our votes were not wasted. We became part of a self-respecting minority which was

government under Mr Callaghan. I feel the first step Mr Steel and his colleagues should now take is to arrange for the Liberal candidate in the Stechford by-election to withdraw. While I believe Labour will now win next week, this would be a widely valued gesture of goodwill. Yours faithfully,

PETER HENDERSON LEWIS,
175 Whitehall Road,
Rugby,
Warwickshire.

March 23

From Mr Antony J. Mac

Sir, Let no Liberal ever say again that a vote for Liberals is not a vote for Labour.

Yours faithfully,
ANTONY J. MEE,
Woodcroft House,
Fordingbridge,
Hampshire.

March 24

From Mr Edgar Fromm

Sir, Many years ago, when I served on the committee of a local Liberal Association and consequently acted as an observer during two election counts, a very prominent Liberal politician, now deceased, remarked to me afterwards that if ever I were to witness in my life a situation when Liberals should align themselves to the Labour Party I am to take it for granted that I shall then see the beginning of the demise of the Liberal Party.

Little could I have suspected, al-

most three decades ago, that in 1977 Liberals would bring about such a situation when they would abandon Liberal principles as a pretence for the preservation of national interests which only serve the interests of the Labour Party in reality.

The saying of the fifties and sixies that Liberal members of Parliament can fit into one seat to which the House of Commons will now regrettably have to be re-arranged to a bicycle made fit TWO when the time comes when former supporters of Liberalism deliver their verdict at the next General Election.

Yours sincerely,

A. J. BLACK,
Department of Political Science,
The University,
Dundee.

March 24

From Mrs Anna Keighley

Sir, In the past I have cast my vote for the Liberal Party because I did not want either a Tory or a Socialist government. Though ineffective, it was the only positive statement I could make regarding my political beliefs.

I now feel I have been dismally betrayed by the men I felt shared my views. It is as though they have taken my vote and handed it, gift-wrapped, to a smiling tiger, and what is more, I was not consulted.

Yours faithfully,

ANNA KEIGHLEY,
Apple Yard, High Road,
Old Eastcote,
Pinner, Middlesex.

March 23

From Mr Peter Henderson Lewis

Sir, The arrangement come to with the Liberals will, I think, please all but extreme opinion, be it right, left or centrist.

As proof of the Liberals' genuine desire for a period of effective

classes being taken by the less experienced teachers. The questions which need to be asked are why such classes are left to the weaker staff and whether the impression left by the film was a fair one.

In our experience as former teachers in comprehensive schools it is normal practice for some heads of department to adopt just this attitude, reserving the better and more disciplined classes for the senior staff whilst leaving the new entrants to the profession to manage as best they can with the more difficult classes.

Unless and until this attitude is reversed the general standard of discipline of the more difficult classes will never be raised, and the scene shown in the film will continue to be typical of many schools.

In our opinion the film was a very fair reflection of life in some comprehensive schools, particularly in the contrast shown between the sympathetic attitude of the more experienced staff in their pastoral activities and the appalling lack of understanding shown by their less able colleagues.

Yours etc,

PATRICIA M. DOUGHTY,
KENNETH F. W. DOUGHTY,
Wessex House,
Locketley,
Romsey,
Hampshire.

March 25

From Mrs John Badenoch

Sir, I was not at a boy's school or at a mixed school, but I wonder how many girls there are, from any type of girls' school, who cannot remember at least one occasion of chaos in class.

Yours faithfully,

ANNE BADENOCH,
123 Woodstock Road,
Oxford.

March 23

Seal culling

From Mr D. E. Christopherson

Sir, I was interested to read the letter on seal culling by J. K. Hillier, in today's *The Times*, in which he defended it by saying that for the past 200 years it has been part of the Newfoundland culture, and "the necessary rite de passage for all young men". How terribly sad that this should be so. Surely the sooner it dies from their culture the better, and the dignity of these young men no longer be utterly degraded in the view of so many people.

It was heartening to see recently on a television documentary about the splendid islanders of Uist, who for many years traditionally hunted the seals, now no longer do so.

The statue of the young men of Newfoundland would rise in the eyes of many people if they would give up this utterly barbaric custom.

Yours faithfully,

D. E. CHRISTOPHERSON,
Rede Cottage,
Dormas Park,
East Grinstead,
Sussex.

March 23

Rowing at Oxford

From Mr Robert Mason

Sir, In reply to A. R. C. Westlake's letter on March 24, I would like to clarify some points about Oxford University and its Boat Club which seem to have led to a number of misunderstandings.

Firstly, and perhaps unfortunately for the cause of rowing, students are admitted to the university only if they are of the required academic standard. This rules out any possibility of offering "rowing scholarships". Secondly, only the individual decides whether or not to row for his or her college and for the university, there being no compulsion to do either even if the individual is of international standard.

It is a fact that, whether the standard of rowing in the event merits

decision by members of the public, about whether or not the Government should remain in power will be greatly alleviated when they have been able to make a reasoned decision for themselves with the aid of comprehensive television coverage. This is the only way that the country can appreciate the complexities of the present system in Parliament and it may have the added benefit of restoring much of the respectability of the House of Commons by showing what is really taking place in the inter-party debates.

It is now the time to re-awaken the argument about the broadcasting of parliamentary procedure while the members and the public can appreciate the advantages this would provide.

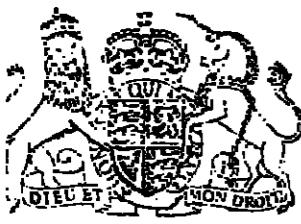
Yours faithfully,

ANDREW R. E. MURRAY,
Chairman, Harrow East Young
Conservatives.
26 Pangbourne Drive,
Stamford,
Middlesbrough.

From Mr George McWatters

Sir, Now that the threat of an immediate general election has been temporarily removed, many on both sides of industry would like to see some form of bipartite approach to industrial problems. The Industrial and Temporary Employment Subsidy, amongst many other devices are all playing their part in the resuscitation of British industry. But would be a tragedy if a change of government brought any of these an abrupt end.

For instance, the footwear manufacturers are likely to receive in the near future son £10,000,000 for substantial restructuring that is badly needed to revitalise this industry. Over the years' work and study on how to allocate resources to overcome footwear manufacturing's problems have taken place. It would be a tragedy if a change of



Forthcoming marriages

Dr C. R. Poyton and Miss C. H. Twiston Davies. The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of Sir Hilton and Lady Poyton of Craigmuir, Croydon, Surrey, and Caroline, daughter of Dr and Mrs Twiston Davies, of Llywelyn Llanwrtud, Dyfed.

Mr T. E. V. Sopwith and Miss G. Hathorn.

The engagement is announced between Thomas, only son of Sir Thomas and Lady Sopwith of Gwrynn Mawr, King's Lynn, Norfolk, and Gina, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hathorn, of Great Bentley Farm, Merton, Hampshire.

Mr J. W. Froomeberg and Miss C. R. Varley.

The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs M. J. Froomeberg, of Kincraig, Winchendon, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. E. Varley, of University Park, Nottingham.

Mr R. L. Kemp and Miss H. S. Oakley.

The engagement is announced between the younger son of Mr and Mrs M. J. Kemp, of Astead, Surrey, and Sally, daughter of Mr and Mrs B. W. Oakley, of Ewell, Surrey.

Birthdays today

Colonel Sir Michael Ansell, 72; Pierre Boulez, 52; Sir Frederick Bovenschen, 93; Sir Arthur Edd, 82; Dr James B. Conant, 92; Sir John Cowperthwaite, 83; Sir Thomas C. Fairbairn, 103; Lord Ichier, 74; Vice-Admiral Sir McGroarty, 63; Dr Kenneth Ian, 63; Sir Leslie Melville, 81; Sidney Ridley, 70; Mr Tessier, 56; Sir Mervyn Mervyn, 74; Mr Julian Amery, 58; Mr James Callaghan, MP, 78; Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Dalton, 87; Sir Douglas Logan, 78; Sir Henry Plum, 52.

Test appointments

test appointments include: C. C. Fielding to be Inspector of the Royal Engineers Weapons Establishment, Cosham, Portsmouth, from April 1, to succeed Mr J. A. Alvey. Anthony Buck, QC, MP, to be chairman of the Select Committee on the Parliamentary Commission of Administration in succession to Charles Fletcher-Cook, QC.

Service dinner

1 Parachute Battalion annual dinner of officers of 1st Parachute Battalion took place at the Army and Navy Club yesterday. Major L. C. Dyer presided.

ler must de
Cartier
Paris

Boutique at
Harvey Nichols
Knightsbridge

To celebrate the
creation of a
new pen, the
Cartier stylo,
three eminent
authors will be
signing their
books at
Les Must
de Cartier
boutique,
Harvey Nichols,
Knightsbridge,
London.

Hammond Innes
Tuesday March 29th

Lady Antonia Fraser
Wednesday March 30th

Kingsley Amis
Thursday March 31st

Between 12-1pm

Cartier jewellery
watches lighters clocks
and leather

INCURABLE
-but enjoying life
thanks to your help...

Despite the effect of progressive
paralysing diseases, our patients
learn to derive the greatest
possible enjoyment from life
in the home-like
surroundings we provide.
Please help us to make
ends meet with a Legacy,
Deed of Covenant,
or Donation.

BHII
We are not State
aided.

The British Home & Hospital for Incurables
Crown Lane, Streatham, London SW16 3JB.
Patron: HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

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Personal
investment and
finance,
pages 18 and 19

Terms ready for bond issue to foreign holders of sterling balances

By David Blake

Economic Correspondent

What will amount to a detailed prospectus for the new issue of government bonds to overseas holders of "sterling balances" now looks likely to be sent out in the week after the Budget statement on Tuesday.

Final details of the bonds, which are to be issued under the terms of the "safety-net" agreed in Basle this year, are being settled by officials after consultations with sterling balance holders.

Mr Gordon Richardson, Governor of the Bank of England, visited Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to discuss the scheme with the governments of those countries.

About 75 per cent of the bonds will be issued in United States dollars, with Deutsche Mark, Swiss franc and Japanese denominations also available in smaller amounts.

The term of the bonds could run between 5 and 10 years, depending on demand, though it is possible that term will be restricted to 6 to 9 years. Many of the bonds may be for 7 years.

Government officials say no decision has been taken about how many bonds will be sold to the official sterling holders,

who held \$2,203m (nearly £1,300m) at the end of last year. However, Continental Central bankers have said that at recent sessions of the Bank for International Settlements in Basle Britain indicated around \$1,000m in the first instance.

Whitehall officials suggest that this figure has no particular significance.

It may be, however, that other countries will take this a reasonable level of sales.

The bonds are being sold very much at the suggestion of other industrialized countries who wanted a "funding" of the sterling balances to be part of any package deal. They are committed to put up money as a medium-term loan to the United Kingdom to cover any drain on our reserves caused by an outflow of sterling balances. Thus, the more bonds sold to balance-holders the less countries such as Germany and the United States will have to put up.

The bonds are expected to be negotiable but not marketable. The distinction is that no effort will be made by the Government to set up a market where they can be bought and sold.

The interest rate will be closely related to that being paid in the market on other borrowing.

Minister seeks CBI help for prices board

By Patricia Tisdall

A plea to the Confederation of British Industry to cooperate in setting up new price control machinery was made by Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, last night.

In a conciliatory reply to CBI criticisms of the Government's proposals for new price curbs, Mr Hattersley said he hoped their reservations would not stop the CBI from cooperating in the establishment of the right sort of Price Commission.

The proposals, outlined in a consultative document released last month, included widening the powers of the Price Commission and provoked sharp opposition from the CBI.

Among other things the new price freeze machinery with which the Government is hoping to replace the present system on August 1 would give the commission considerable discretionary powers.

The chairman of the new-look Price Commission is considered a key figure in a flexible structure, and among the names

speculated is Sir Campbell Adamson, the former director-general of the CBI.

He already had some names in mind, he said, and he would like to make an announcement at the same time as he presented a Bill in the Commons.

"My fear is that the CBI will look at the proposals more in terms of theology rather than practicality," he said.

Under Mr Hattersley's consultative proposals, the Commission would have new powers to instigate inquiries into pricing practices on its own initiative.

Following such an investigation it would have the ability to freeze a price rise application for up to three months.

The Prices Secretary would have the power to extend the freeze for up to a year.

Among the CBI's objections to the proposals is the duration of the price restraint order after a commission investigation. It wants the extension to last no more than six months.

Further opposition to the proposals came yesterday from Mr Hector Laing, chairman of the Food and Drink Industry Council.

Fed steps up investigation into scale of foreign lending by US commercial banks

From Frank Vogl

Washington, March 25

America's Federal Reserve Board has increased its examination of the foreign activities of American-owned banks.

The Fed is also conducting an informal survey among 25 leading domestic banks of the way they monitor and control their foreign loan exposure, according to Mr Henry Wallich, a Fed governor.

Mr Wallich told a congressional committee the Fed was concerned about the scale of commercial bank foreign lending, but he stressed that the dimensions of the problems in his area should not be overstated.

He pointed out that concern about such loans had naturally increased since it became clear during 1976 that "the Opec surpluses will be larger and persist longer than had been expected several years ago".

Mr Wallich said the Fed was now working with Group of Ten central banks, and with the bank for International Settlements, in an effort to obtain

much more detailed information on commercial bank foreign lending. By the end of 1976, he said, claims on foreigners of domestic offices and foreign branches of American and foreign banks totalled \$207,000m (£114,500m).

According to informed international monetary sources there is a broad acceptance among governors of the Group of Ten central banks that the leading international private banks will have to continue to play the prime role in providing loans to support the oil-related payments deficits of most countries.

They stress that new International Monetary Fund efforts in this area may at best permit the private banks to modify the scale of their new foreign lending.

Negotiations aiming at creating a new source of funds for the IMF are moving ahead, but no details have been agreed so far. The sources said it was unrealistic to suggest that new arrangements would definitely produce some \$15,000m to \$20,000m.

The Times index: 171.67-1.19
The FT index: 418.1-3.3

How the markets moved

Rises

IPV Hedges
Stock
New, G.
Euro Ferries

70 to 332p
22p to 120p
So to 90p
44p to 743p

Negretti & Zam
Pve
Urd Scientific
UKO Int

11p to 58p
70 to 60p
50 to 175p
5p to 155p

Bank
bonds

Rank
Bank

Bank
Bank

Australia 5
Austria Sch
Belgium Fr
Canada 5
Denmark Kr
Finland Mark
France Fr
Germany DM
Greece Dr
Hong Kong \$
Italy Lr
Japan Yen
Netherlands Gd
Norway Kr
Portugal Esc
S African Rd
Spain Pes
Sweden Kr
Switzerland Fr
U.S. \$
Yugoslavia Duk

1.61
30.50
65.25
1.85
10.38
6.75
8.77
1.50
64.75
8.20
1545.00
500.00
4.45
9.28
68.00
1.92
121.50
7.50
4.54
1.76
34.25

1.55
62.25
1.80
9.48
6.50
8.45
1.50
61.50
7.75
1490.00
475.00
8.52
64.00
1.79
8.52
4.32
1.21
52.00

Bank
Bank

equities ended the week quietly. gilt-edged securities fell back. Dollar premium 111.50 per cent effective rate 39.10 per cent. Sterling lost 3 pts to \$1.7177. The "effective devaluation" rate was 1.8 per cent.

On other pages

Bank Base Rates Table

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Interim Statement:

Electronic Machine Co

Unit Trust:

M & G

17

THE POUND

Bank
Bank

Paint price reference

Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, announced in a Commons written reply yesterday that he had referred the

rates for small denominations

of foreign currency to the

Bank of England for review.

Reports, pages 19 and 20

17

£30m Leyland NEB loan authorized

By Edward Townsend

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, announced yesterday that he had authorized the payment of a promised £30m loan to British Leyland. This brings the total of investment or investment finance borrowed from public sources by the company in the past year to £80m.

The £30m facility, provided under section 8 of the Industrial Act, was approved by Parliament last August. As part of the initial £100m loan proposed under the terms of the now threatened Ryder plan for restructuring the company.

The reviews are likely to result in a significant scaling down of the Ryder plan. It is also known that important changes to the company's management structure are under consideration.

Provision of future funds by the NEB, under its chairman, Lord Ryder, will be studied in the light of the company's success in achieving a sustained and high rate of productivity. This week, under normal working conditions, Leyland will be able to show that it can return rapidly to a healthy level of output.

In the past five days it is believed that the company's car assembly lines have matched the factory working average of 17,500 vehicles. By the middle of next week, barring any further disruptions, the company should be producing cars at 20,000 a week, the target set last year to avoid the Government's "drastic review" of the car division's operations.

There are also hopes that the long-awaited Leyland spending on new machine

tools may soon begin. The Machine Tool Trades Association, which recently made strong representations to the company for a clear indication of future requirements, has been told that orders will start flowing between now and June.

Clifford Webb writes: A deputation of senior shop stewards from Leyland Cars' Rover plant at Solihull yesterday asked for management help to recall workers who have refused to cross picket lines over the past two days.

Advertises were placed in local newspapers last night informing all Rover employees that a strike by 60 Rover engine assemblers was unofficial and the pickets were operating without union authority.

Today the 63 members of the unofficial Birmingham committee are meeting to decide their response to the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' offer to half the seats on the union's "size-up" delegation to serve on the new working group which will represent all Leyland mutual unions with management.

Albion switch to a major reorganization at British Leyland's Albion plant in Scunthorpe, Glasgow, has been approved by the 3,000-strong labour force. After reequipping, the plant is to become the Truck and Bus Group's major supplier of gearboxes, rear axles and suspension units. Hundreds of jobs will be created in the long term.

Mr Walker, aged 37, is an Assistant Secretary in the Overseas Finance division of the Treasury, having gained a double first in economics at Cambridge. He joined the Treasury in 1961. He spent six months in the Economic Department of the Bank of England and from 1965 to 1970 was seconded to the International Monetary Fund in Washington.

The other significant appointment is that of Mr R. D. Galpin, who is to become Chief of Establishments—effectively running the Bank's administration—in early 1978, and of Mr E. A. J. George, who moves up from being an Adviser in the Overseas Department to become a Deputy Chief Cashier.

Mr Galpin is a Deputy Chief Cashier and in charge of the Banking and Money Market Supervision division. He also has prime responsibility for the Bank's relations with the London Discount Market Association. These responsibilities will pass to another Deputy Chief Cashier, Mr A. L. Coleby.

A further appointment is that of Mr Anthony Loehnis, a director of merchant bankers J. Henry Schroder Wag, to be an Adviser to the Governor.

Mr Lo

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Pensions

Are you likely to get an increase?

If you are a member of a scheme whose trustees have the power to increase pension that are being paid out when and to whatever extent they wish—within broad limits—you will have to look beyond the explanatory booklet or the rules for that matter, to assess your prospects of maintaining living standards in the future. The best guide to the future is what has happened in the past. If there have been no increases it would be unreasonable to expect that the future holds any different prospect. If there have been increases awarded from time to time, it is important to know how frequently reviews are carried out.

Some schemes are deliberately set up to produce resources sufficient to increase pensions after they start to be paid. You are not likely to be able to discover whether this is the situation in your scheme except by looking at results.

The only place where there is an answer what financial arrangements are made for the scheme is in the actuary's report, which is not normally made available to the members, and if it is, may very well be so technical that it confuses rather than clarifies.

If the scheme does not set out in advance to finance pension increases, it will be able to do so only if there have been fortuitous profits, or if the employer has put in additional contributions. Many schemes have shown profits in the past because of staff turnover, but this source is much less significant now, because the new legislation about rights on leaving service requires that members leaving should be given benefits in respect of their service.

Investment profits are the other major source of spare cash and some schemes have performed consistently well and thus provided for pension revaluation. More recently, however, investment conditions have been very unfavourable, and investment managers have been hard pressed to maintain the solvency of their schemes without additional support from the employer.

On top of all this, pay increases have put an additional strain on most pension schemes, leaving less prospect of finding the money to increase pensions out of unbudgeted surpluses.

Some employers are much more open about their scheme's financial state of affairs and you may find that your scheme's authorities are prepared to talk about the methods of financing adopted, particularly, in the schemes of larger employers you are quite likely to find that there are even member representatives on the scheme's governing body and there are no secrets at all.

On the other hand, particularly in a small firm, the employer may not disclose the basis on which the scheme is being financed at the same time, if the scheme is run by an insurance company, and on the whole, it is the smaller schemes which are insured, it is likely that there will be an explicit mention of increases if they are allowed for.

In most insured schemes pension increases come at a fixed annual rate, but there are four or five insurance companies which offer a basis by which the rate of increase is linked to investment results. The members' booklet will normally make this clear.

The modern trend is towards the provision of more extensive information for scheme members and last year the government produced a White Paper setting out proposed legislation on the subject, following a report from the Occupational Pensions Board.

Against this, the technicalities of pension scheme funding are so complex that they may be incomprehensible, so would misleading without long and detailed explanation. Most schemes—and the Government's proposals—stop short of the publication of actuarial reports for this reason. This is one area where you are probably better advised to avoid jumping to conclusions on your own.

Eric Brunet

Investment trusts

Standard bid opens way for more

HOW THE SECTOR HAS BEEN WARMING UP

1976
September
Trafalgar House bids for Direct Spanish Telegraph.
Edward du Cane and others acquires 43 per cent of First Talisman.
Scottish and Second Scottish Investment Trusts merger.
November
Proposed amalgamation of Midcap Investment Trust with Cabot Unit Trust.
Proposed merger of Telephone & General and Temple Bar Investment Trusts.
S. Pearson makes cash offer for Embankment Investment Trust.

1977
January
British Rail Pension Fund bids for Standard Trust.
SPR Investments considers unitization.
Cable and Globe Investment Trusts propose a merger.

they want to, and preserving funds under their own management as is happening with Rothschild's New Court European investment trust.

But Schlesinger, or any other similarly ambitious fund management group, might well consider an approach to one of the several sizable independent groups in the investment trust stable where there is no management company with a vested interest in maintaining funds under its own control.

The agreed bids from the Prudential for Standard and CU for Estates House clearly knock on the head the notion that a

bidding for Menteith Investment Trust.

New Court European Trust proposes unitization.
Arbuthnott Latham takes over Ionian Bank's Leda and Jouré Investment Trusts.

February
Guinness Peat bids for London Electrical & General Investment Trust.
Simonside Investment Trust announces proposals for liquidation.

March
Tricentrol bids for Ashmole Investment Trust.
Dawmav Day bids for Floreat Investment Trust.

Commercial Union bids for Estates House.
London & Scottish America and United States Debenture propose merger.
Schlesinger proposes unitization of Standard Trust.

Prudential emerges as third bidder for Standard Trust.

solution to some of the industry's most urgent problems.

Dissatisfaction with investment trusts springs from the discount and the oversupply of investment trust shares. One way of looking at the problem is to say that the market capitalization of the investment trust sector is simply too large in relation to the amount of money chasing it.

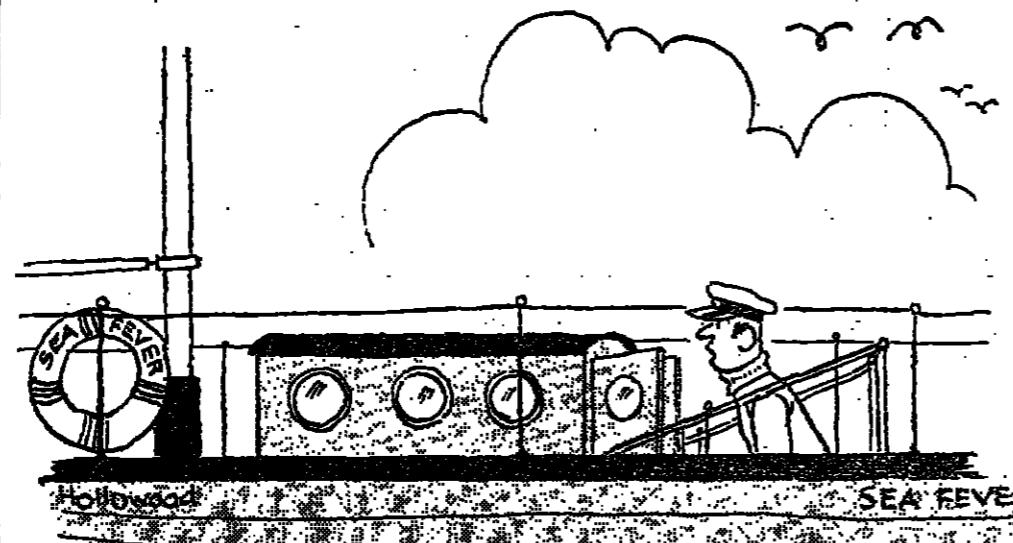
Unlike a unit trust an investment trust cannot buy its own shares, but there is nothing to prevent it from buying its own deferred equity, in the form of convertible stock. It is perhaps a cumbersome weapon, but one which would enable the manager to contract itself in an orderly manner instead of being forced to wait like sitting ducks, for others to do the job for them.

For a normal trust it would involve issuing convertible stock at par by way of rights on the understanding that the trust itself would be a buyer once the stock fell to a certain discount on assets. With a rights issue on a one-for-one basis, for instance, the capitalization of ordinary shares in issue would be reduced by half.

In addition, the convertible route should provide a mechanism for preventing the discount on the ordinary shares falling through the floor, since it would give the managers ability in the market to prevent the sort of tailspin that investment trust shares find themselves in once the market generally shows signs of weakness.

Margaret Drummond

Insurance



"Owners who leave their boats open to improve ventilation . . . are unlikely to be able to claim for theft losses."

Boats are not all plain sailing

insurance can be amended. The same rule applies to outboard motors. Often, claims are made for outboard motors, but there is no cover because the motors were acquired after the insurance came into force, and the insurers had not been told.

Sometimes, also, claims are made under a yacht policy for the loss of clothing, personal items, and so on. Normally, there is no cover for them under a yacht policy. One definition of what is covered is the vessel, herself, her machinery, boat(s), gear or equipment, such as would be sold with the vessel if she changed hands.

It may be possible to make special arrangements for other items to be covered under the yacht policy. Or it may be more satisfactory for them to be insured under one's household policy. In the latter event, the household insurers must be told that the items will be taken to sea regularly; this may justify a higher premium.

Be careful about towing other vessels, or being towed. Quoting again from the Insurance Yacht Clauses, there is

cover "to assist and to tow vessels or craft in distress, or as is customary, but it is warranted that the vessel shall not be towed, except as is customary, or when in need of assistance, or undertake towage or salvage services under a contract previously arranged by owners, masters, managers or charterers."

What is meant by the term "as is customary"? Generally it is looked upon as normal everyday towing, such as from moorings to a yacht yard within the harbour limits. It does not mean a fairly long tow, such as across the Solent, if anything like that is contemplated, the insurers' agreement must be obtained in advance.

Finally, is the insured value adequate? Owing to inflation, boats have not depreciated in value at the same rate as in the past; sometimes they have appreciated in value. As a premium-saving exercise, some owners deliberately under-insure.

Run-of-the-mill repairs will be paid up to the insured value, but clearly, in the event of anything more serious, such as the total loss of the boat, the maximum which will be paid is the insured value.

If there should be salvage charges at any stage, they will be calculated on the salved value of the boat. Should there be under-insurance, insurers will pay only that rated proportion of the charges, leaving the owner to meet the balance.

John Drummond

Fixed interest investment

Changing strategy for a new portfolio

Looking back on the performance of the market in general and of my high income portfolio in particular since I established it just over two months ago, I am glad that I started it then and not now. If I were to start again now, I would be adopting different tactics.

I am beginning to have some serious doubts about how much further the drop in interest rates has to go. I know that rates in the London money markets have been falling hand over fist—even FFI put its rates to small depositors down by a point on all terms last week.

I know that gilt-edged prices have been rising fast, with only some momentary agitation at the prospect of a general election to interrupt the trend last week. I know that the Government's attempts to take some of the steam out of the longer end of the gilt-edged market by issuing a new "tap" stock—Exchequer 12½ per cent 1992—have not worked out exactly as planned, for the stock was heavily oversubscribed on issue.

I would like to sell out at a comfort able profit.

I would not change my equities—though I note that Trust Houses Forte has been doing me proud—but I might choose a much shorter-dated instrument for the funds I have in my gift. Thus, among the local authorities, if I tucked my money away for a year I could buy 11 per cent on a minimum of £500 from Suffolk Coastal (as against 13 per cent on the same amount from Harrogate) on a term running to the end of March 1979.

But I think I would probably choose instead to take advantage of a new scheme which United Dominions Trust has produced, under which depositors with multiples of £1,000 to a limit of £100,000, can obtain a half per cent return above the average rate obtainable from local authorities for seven-day money. Last week the rate quoted was 10½ per cent, and I would not expect it to drop much when it is recalculated on Monday morning.

Under these circumstances I see no reason to abandon my strategy (which is to obtain the maximum possible income commensurate with safety and some growth in my return), but I would aim at achieving it through investments which were either short-dated or highly marketable.

I would stick with my British Leyland stock, for all that the developments there have been somewhat uneventful: I bought on the view that the company would not go under or that, if it did, I would more than get my money out at seven days' notice.

TDT?—It has the clearing banks and the Bank of England behind it now. And, in any case, nothing venture . . .

Adrienne Gleeson

Taxation: readers ask

Gains on houses • Property transfer • Redundancy



Last month when answering a reader's letter on the income tax position of a husband moving out of the mortgaged matrimonial home I said that "where borrowings, up to a total of £25,000, are spent on the main residence of the individual and of his/her separated spouse, the interest for both properties is tax deductible."

In answer to another reader's inquiry the statutory reference is Schedule 1, paragraph 4 Finance Act 1974. What I said did not go quite far enough in that the total borrowings of £25,000 can be spent not only on the main residence used by the borrower or his separated spouse, but also on the main residence used by his former spouse or a dependent relative.

The ceiling of £25,000 has not been raised since this piece of law came into being in 1974 and it is to be hoped that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will do something about it in his forthcoming budget.

On deed of covenant payments made in favour of his adult children who are still receiving full-time education a reader asks whether the payments count towards the £2,000 annual exemption. Provided the payments are made for the maintenance, education or training of the children they are exempt in their own right until the education or training ceases, in which case the £2,000 exemption is additional.

Finally, an inquiry following my article on redundancy and golden handshake payments.

"My husband was made redundant in July 1976, and received a lump sum under the terms of the Redundancy Act 1965 plus an ex gratia payment from his former employer, totalling over £5,000.

The excess over £5,000 was included with his final salary payment and taxed under PAYE. It seems to me that the standard capital superannuation benefit would be extinguished all liability to tax on this excess sum. Can you refer me to the appropriate section of the taxing acts which gives authority for this relief?

"From your experience can you say whether the onus is on my husband to raise this matter with his Inspector of Taxes, or will the relief be given as a matter of course in computing his tax liability for 1976-1977?"

The statutory reference is section 188(2) and Schedule 8, Taxes Act 1970. Where the payment exceeds £5,000 the employer is required to deduct tax under PAYE on the excess unless the standard capital superannuation benefit has first been agreed with the tax office.

Where the tax deducted is excessive it is up to the employee to send in a claim for repayment to the tax office. This reader's husband should therefore write to the tax office stating the facts to get the repayment under way.

Vera Di Palma

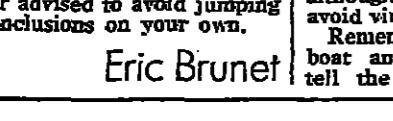
humming and clanking, a white plastic cup appears and the machine squirts a mixture of coca and chicken soup into it.

This is because you are accustomed its little tantrums which are dealt with by thumbing it with the edge of the side on the right hand side, rather than where the foot is. Only if this is done before putting the cup in will you get coffee, as requested, first time.

But it's too late now because it is thumbing it with the edge of the side and here is your boss striding towards you down the corridor. Not only have you broken the machine, he informs you, but his secretary has done one of his work the whole morning because she has been arranging your precious ticks. He speeds on up the corridor in overdrive and disappears into the distance like a tiny laser beam of fury. It was not the cup it was, as P. C. Wedehouse put it, but you could hear the beating of its wings.

And the worst part of it all is that you haven't ever got your secretary's shoulder to cry on.

Francis Kinsman



THE EMC GROUP OF COMPANIES

INTERIM RESULTS

The unaudited results for the six months ended 31st October 1976 of Electronic Machine Company Limited and subsidiary companies are as follows:

6 months to 31.10.76	6 months to 31.10.75
£ 1,021,000	£ 791,000
(161,982)	31,000
Estimated Taxation	
(Loss) Profit after all charges including Taxation	nil
£ 16,000	
(161,982)	15,000

As stated by the Chairman at the Annual General Meeting the greater part of the loss for the first six months were incurred as a result of the reorganization of the metal pressing division. This division is in the first four months of the second half showing an increasingly profitable trend.

Current turnover for the Group is running 50% up on last year. Group order books are now in excess of three quarters of a million pounds. It is not expected that the first six months reorganization losses will be totally absorbed by the second half upturn. But 1977/78 should be one of increasing profit due to the higher level of trading.

25th March, 1977

Horrors of life without a secretary . . .

We are over half way through Lent and many of you are doubtless missing the things you have given up. Unless, that is, you decided at the outset to give up giving things up. In that case, I suggest that you do this for yourself, as it is a terrible constraint. But since doodling in an exercise book is never a temptation if you stop it, you are heading for an ulcer. Try bending paper clips into funny shapes is my advice, but it is not anything like as therapeutic, I warn you.

Then there is this loathsome business of booking one's airline or rail tickets. Timetables are things I am quite hopeless about. I always find myself in the wrong colour, or in King-tongue. That is rather than Kingston-upon-Hull. Women are better at it, having the advantage of a higher degree of spatial awareness than men. Something like that. Anyway the moral is to get your boss's secretary to fix everything up for you. She won't like it, but a touch of the "little boy lost" will generally do the trick.

Finally, I present for your consideration the coffee vending machine. In the past you had to doodle on your blotter. It is another problem. If you doodle on your blotter, and one soon learns to

blotter like I do you may not have been aware of it up until now because your secretary will always have whisked away the dirty pieces of blotting paper and replaced them with new and pristine ones. Now that you have to do this for yourself you feel a terrible constraint. But since doodling in an exercise book is never a temptation if you stop it, you are heading for an ulcer. Try bending paper clips into funny shapes is my advice, but it is not anything like as therapeutic, I warn you.

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EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

Investor's week

MAIN RISES AND FALLS OF THE WEEK						
Rises						
Year's high	Year's low	Company	Movement	Comment		
360p	170p	De La Rue	20p to 380p	Formica sale		
226p	64p	Morris H	34p to 226p	Hope of better terms		
193p	111p	Pork Farms	38 p to 193p	Comment		
85p	32p	Patners	12p to 85p	Bid talk		
—	—	Wallis FJ	17p to 65p	Bid from Int Stores		
Falls						
397p	158p	Ayer Hitam	25p to 340p	Profit taking		
938p	559p	BP	50p to 81p	US selling		
750p	58p	Chas Hill	12p to 116p	Compensation statement		
194p	82p	Ocean Wilsons	20p to 144p	Small selling		
60p	2p	Peachey Prop	9p to 29p	Adverse rumours		

Election tremors • Takeover activity

Wednesday night's vote of confidence motion in the Commons created nervous conditions in the London stock market this week. Previous expectations of a strong run-up to the Budget taking the FT ordinary share index to around 450 were shattered by the Opposition's move and the uncertainty it generated.

Though Liberal support seems to have secured the Government's position, least until the late summer, many analysts believe that the impact of an election will play an increasing part in sentiment over the coming months. The City's view of the move was made plain on Monday when the FT index lost 14 points—its worst day for five weeks—and some gilt-edged stocks were lowered by 1%.

The general opinion of dealers and the investing public was that an election would not be beneficial at this stage, particularly since it would put another round of incomes policy in grave danger. But the institutions tended to play a more restrained hand and there was little evidence to suggest that they were still in line.

Once again the market demonstrated its resilience, by recovering Monday's losses in the next two days, as it became apparent that the Government would survive. But this was followed by end-of-account profit taking and at last night's close of 418.1 the index was 10.4 lower over the five days.

Gilt-edged stocks were similarly affected by the events at Westminster and there was some disappointment at yesterday's unchanged minimum lending rate, which ran counter to money market indications. But the event of the week was the heavy over-subscription of the new £800m 12.25 per cent 1992 stock, which has the special attraction of an initial payment of only 1% per cent.

Now that it has been fully taken up it will not be used as a "tap" and yesterday it was traded heavily at a small premium.

In a market short of investment trading bid and speculative stocks commanded a good deal of interest. An offer worth 35p a share by Pilkington Brothers for optical precision

David Mott

Unit trust performance

UNIT TRUSTS: Growth and Specialist funds (progress this year and the past three years). Unitholder index 1793.4 rise from January 1, 1977: +12.75%.

Average change of offer to bid, net income included, over past 12 months: -1.5% over three years: +29.1%.

Statistics supplied by Money Management and Unitholder, 30 Finsbury Square, London EC2.

GROWTH

London Wall Spt Sits A 57.1 Endeavour 3.1 55.3

M. & G Special 12.5 20.1 Arbutinot Preference 2.7 55.3

Oscars Index 12.9 20.1 Allied Brothers Pacific 2.5 50.9

M. & G Special 12.5 20.1 Henderson Internat 1.5 50.9

Manulife Growth 8.3 12.5 Henderson Internat 1.5 50.9

Schroder Capital F 7.7 17.2 Stewart M 1.0 70.8

Sebas Capital 7.5 44.8 Hill Samuel Dollar 1.0 70.8

Hambros Recovery 7.4 9.2 Britannia Property 1.0 70.8

S & C Capital 7.4 20.8 Henderson Nat Res 0.1 70.8

Perpetual Growth M 6.2 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Hambros Accumulator 6.2 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Antony Gibbs Growth 5.7 4.8 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Abbey Wall Spt Sits A 4.8 47.5 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Crescent Growth 4.8 47.5 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Henderson Capital 4.8 16.2 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Arthurs Compound 4.2 47.5 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Turner New Court Equity 4.0 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

GT Capital 3.5 23.5 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

S & P Ebor Acc 3.8 28.5 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Vanguard Growth 3.2 20.0 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Capitol Capital 3.0 20.0 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Unicorn Recovery 2.5 36.4 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Hambros Special Sec 3.0 20.0 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Pearl Growth 1.7 26.5 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Garners Growth Sh 1.5 23.7 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Unicorp Growth 1.3 28.5 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Bridge Capital 0.8 13.8 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

New Court Smal Cos 0.7 29.2 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Bridge Professional 0.7 29.2 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Hambros Small Cos 0.0 45.2 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Key Capital 0.2 45.2 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Mid Drayton Cap -0.7 48.4 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Target Growth -0.7 16.2 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Mid Drayton Gwth -0.8 61.2 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Nat & Cmp Cap F -1.1 12.5 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Strategic F 1.0 20.4 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Britannia Shield -1.9 35.1 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Reliance Opportunity -2.0 42.0 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Stockholders F -2.1 42.9 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

M & G Compound -3.0 14.4 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Central West Cap -3.1 43.4 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Grange F 3.5 35.5 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Britannia Status Ch 4.1 -1.5 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Lea Capital -5.1 19.1 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

S & P Universal 5.1 -5.1 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Britannia Cap Acc 5.1 -5.1 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Oceanic Performance -5.4 36.8 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Irish Gw Acc 5.4 -5.4 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Prudential Gw Acc 5.4 -5.4 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Royal Trust Cap -6.3 17.5 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

M & G Core Growth -6.5 -1.5 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Unicorn F 7.1 -21.3 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Unicorn Prof M -7.5 79.5 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

S & P Select Gwth F -7.5 18.2 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Macmillan Growth -9.7 -3.1 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Arthurs Growth -9.2 37.8 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Barbante Insurance -9.2 30.3 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Life Capital -10.3 30.3 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

I & P Scotgrowth -11.4 48.4 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Target Eagle -13.0 -2.1 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Lyne Growth -14.3 -20.4 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Oceanic Recovery -15.9 -7.5 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Lyson Growth -30.5 -30.5 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

SPACIALIST A B

IT Japan & Gen 20.4 9.4 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Henderson Far East 19.5 9.4 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Irit Commnd Sh 19.0 9.1 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Arthurs Com Share 17.2 53.1 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Lyson Growth 16.0 -1.5 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Key Energy 15.0 -1.5 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

M & G Commodity 13.1 -24.4 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Lyson Growth 12.3 -24.4 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

I & P Energy 9.6 22.5 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Target Commodity 7.1 39.3 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Bishopgate Int F 5.6 35.4 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Henderson Austral 30.7 -32.0 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Lyson Growth 4.3 21.4 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Midland Drayton Com 4.0 -4.0 12.5 Prudential 0.1 70.8

Offer to bid, income reinvested. 4: Change since March 18, 1976. 5: Change since April 1, 1976. 6: Trust taken to March 25, 1977. 7: Trust valued monthly. 8: Trust valued every two weeks.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Investors stay away ahead of Budget

Equities ended a difficult week on a quiet note and with no interest for the new account starting on Monday, most prices drifted lower throughout the week.

Though a little firmer in late trading, the FT Index was still 3.3 lower at 418.1 by the close, leaving it 10.4 lower over the week and just 2.3 higher over the account. Investors seem quite happy to stay on the sidelines until the Budget in the hope of some clarification of the Government's economic

Glaxo giving up 8p to 485p, Beecham 6p to 442p, Fisons 4p to 35p and Unilever 2p to 46p.

A decision to look into pain prices brought weakness to the related issues. Among these, Dufay Bituminous at 42p and Blundell Pergmeyer at 42p both eased a point, but there were larger falls from Leyland Paint 3p to 43p and ICI where the drop was 5p to 360p.

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